



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-045
Tuesday
8 March 1988

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-045

CONTENTS

8 March 1988

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 March Middle East and South Asia Review	1
---	---

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Confirms Responsibility for Hijacking [Beirut Voice of Lebanon]	3
Group Claims Responsibility [Baghdad Voice of the PLO]	3
'Arafat Receives Message from Soviet Leaders [KUNA]	3
Faruq Qaddumi Comments on Shultz Proposals [Radio Monte Carlo]	3
Khalaf on Shultz Proposal, Ties With Syria [KUNA]	5
On Peace Conference Delegation [Radio Monte Carlo]	5
Al-Sa'ih Says Shultz Proposals 'Nothing New' [MENA]	5
Urges U.S. Recognition of PLO [MENA]	5
PNC Official on Rejection of Shultz Proposals [KUNA]	6
Fatah Statement on 'Uprising,' Shultz Plan [Baghdad Voice of the PLO]	7
W. Bank Mayors Cited on Autonomy, Jordanian Aid [Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 6 Mar]	8

South Asian Regional Affairs

Talks on Afghanistan Issue Continue in Geneva	9
Wakil News Conference [Kabul]	9
Talks Resume 7 Mar [BAKHTAR]	10
Noorani on Latest Round [Islamabad]	10
Islamabad on Pakistan's Aims	11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Iran's Larijani Reiterates Stand, Departs [IRNA]	12
Peruvian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit	12
Ibrahimi, Wagner Open Talks	12
Bendjedid Meets With Wagner	12
Progress on Joint Commission	13

Chad

Habre Receives French Cooperation Fund Director	13
French Prime Minister's Adviser Visits Abeche	13

Egypt

'Source' Denies 'Fedayeen' Crossed Border [Radio Monte Carlo]	13
Border Crossing 'Impossible' [Radio Free Lebanon]	14
Libyan Planes To Return 'Within 48 Hours' [AFP]	14
Mubarak Addresses Islamic Call Conference	14
'Extremist Students' Arrested in Asyut	16
EEC's Cheysson Arrives for Official Visit	16
Meets With Mubarak, Comments	17
EEC Role in Region Viewed	17
Cheysson on Talks, EC Aid	17
Talks End, Departure Noted	18

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Chad's Habre To Meet 11-12 April [Riyadh]	18
Further on Ra's al-Unuf People's Congress	18
Opposition Praises Al-Qadhdhafi	18
2 Commissions Established	18
Algerians, Tunisians Speak	18
Hungarian-Israeli Ties Viewed	19
Official Meets USSR Delegation	20
Bulgarians Depart 6 Mar	20
Malian Vice President Comments	20
Malian Affirms Solidarity	20
Algerian Comments, Departs	21
130 Foreign Prisoners Freed to Mark Anniversary	21
Jabir Receives PFLP-GC'S Ahmad Jibril 7 Mar	21
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Noriega Envoy, Message	21
Bangladesh's Ershad Sends Letter on Relations	21

Morocco

King Hassan II Makes 27th Anniversary Address	21
King Receives Greetings from USSR's Gromyko	23
Portugal's President Attends Anniversary Fete	23
Commerce Minister El-Azmani Departs for Libya	23

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Rejects Foreign Military Presence [KUNA]	23
Al-Mirghani, Libyan Envoy View Ties, Darfur	23
Spokesman Nur al-Da'im Addresses Media 7 Mar	23
No Plans to Dissolve Government	23
Views Darfur Situation	24
SPLA Denounces 'White Lies' on Nile Steamers [Radio SPLA]	24

IRAQ

'Aziz Addresses Message to Perez de Cuellar	25
Air Force Commander on Armitage Remarks [AL-THAWRAH 1 Mar]	27
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities	27
Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad	27
Strikes, Strategy Summed Up	28
Communique Details Strikes	28
Iran Fires Missile at Mosul	28
Communique No 3,057	29
37th Missile Strike Reported	29
Missile Hits Baghdad	30
Aircraft Hit 'Maritime Target'	30
Mosul Targeted 8 Mar	30
38th Strike Targets Esfahan	30

ISRAEL

Rabin Addresses Knesset on Terrorism, IDF Policy	31
Knesset Endorses Statement	33
Further Reportage on 'Terrorist' Bus Hijacking	33
Force 17 Claims Responsibility	33
Egyptian 'Notes' Found	34
Shamir on Political Impact	34
Shamir Blames Arab Countries	34

Shomron Comments on Incident	34
Shomron Notes Infiltration Site	36
Mordekhay Remarks on Debriefing	36
Arab Notables Criticize Attack	37
More on Leaders' Positions on Shultz Document	37
Levi Urges Decision on Plan	37
Shamir To Present 'Alternative'	37
MA'ARIV Interviews Gerasimov on Shultz Plan [4 Mar]	38
Labor 'Memorandum of Understanding' Sent to PLO [Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 6 Mar]	38
Likud MK Submits Motion for July Elections	39
Golan Druze Travel to Syria for Family Visits	39
More on Unrest, Related Events in Territories	40
Civilian Administration Viewed [THE JERUSALEM POST 7 Mar]	40
West Bank Command Upgraded [THE JERUSALEM POST 6 Mar]	40
IDF Extends Reservist Duty	40
Arab Policeman's Body Found	40
IDF Demolishes Houses in Biddu	41
Conflicting Calls for Strikes	41
Golan Druze Mark Ba'th Day	41
7 Druze Fined	41
Major Given Suspended Sentence [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 6 Mar]	41
Riot Organizer Indicted [HADASHOT 6 Mar]	41
Doctors Study Gaza Wounded [AL HAMISHMAR 6 Mar]	42

JORDAN

King Husayn, Queen Nur Return to Amman 4 Mar	43
Talks to Mubarak, Al-Asad	43
Minister Says U.S. Plan Viewed 'Positively' [JORDAN TIMES 8 Mar]	43
'Source' Says PLO's 'Arafat Invited to Amman [Radio Monte Carlo]	44
AL-DUSTUR Reports Arrival of PLO's Al-Wazir [8 Mar]	44
Committee To Meet 'This Week' [AL-DUSTUR 7 Mar]	44

LEBANON

Further Reportage on Oxfam Employees' Abduction	45
Chances For Release 'Slim' [AL-SAFIR 7 Mar]	45
Coleridge, Assistant Released [RFL]	45
Nasirite's Sa'd Confirms Release [VOL]	45
Fatah Claims Responsibility	45
Oxfam Confirms Release [London PRESS ASSOCIATION]	45
4 Western Humanitarian Workers Leave Sidon	46
Foreigners Stopped, Robbed in Sidon 5 Mar [VOL]	46
Hawi Calls for End to U.S. 'Intervention' [VOM]	46
Outgoing PRC Envoy Meets Al-Jumayyil, Comments	46
LE MONDE Interviews President Al-Jumayyil [6-7 Mar]	46
Al-Jumayyil Discusses Elections, Coexistence	47
Sham'un Presents Presidential Candidacy Program [VOL]	48
PSP Issues Statement on Reform, Uprising [VOM]	48
Further Reports on Military Activities 4-7 Mar	49
Resistance Destroys Israeli Tank	49
5 Israeli's Wounded 5 Mar	49
Israeli, Lahds Attacked 6 Mar	49
9 Feb Group Attacks Syrians	49
Ba'th Group Attacks Israelis	49
Car Bomb Intended for Amal [VOL]	50
SLA Repels Attack on Bra'shit [VOH]	50

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Keshtmand Returns From Medical Checkup in USSR	51
Pakistan Urged To Accept Geneva Accord	51
Najibullah Prays for Success	51
Mujahidin Leader Interviewed [Tehran]	52
Najibullah Speaks on New Academic Year	52
Further on Belorussian SSR Delegation's Visit	53
Meets With Hakim, Razmjo	53
Holds Talks With Najibullah	53
Amin Comments on Refugees, Relations With USSR [Budapest NEPSZABADSAG 27 Feb]	53
Amin Visits Hungary, Meets With Leaders [cross-reference]	54
Hatif Reads National Front Plenum Report	54
Rebels Attack Munitions Depot in Farah Province [IRNA]	55

Bangladesh

Ershad View on State Religion Repudiated [Delhi]	55
--	----

India

Families of Tehran Embassy Staff To be Evacuated	55
Further on Punjab Situation, Emergency Steps	55
President's Rule To Be Extended	55
Parties Voice Opposition	56
4 Killed, 2 Injured in Amritsar	56
Police Inspector, 5 Others Killed	56
President's Rule in Tamil Nadu Approved	56
Gurkha Violence Continues in West Bengal	57
Cuban Vice President Discusses Ties With Leaders	57
Meets With Sharma 5 Mar	57
Calls On Venkataraman	57
Feted by Vice President	57
Delivers Castro Letter to Gandhi	57
Janata Party To Unite With Lok Dal-A	57
Paper Assails Carlucci For Arming Pakistan [PATRIOT 22 Feb]	57
Paper Says Missile Launch To Promote Arms Race [INDIAN ESPRESS 27 Feb]	58

Iran

Majlis Speaker Interviewed on U.S. Aid to Iraq	58
Speculates on Missiles' Origin	59
Musavi Interviewed on Cabinet Session, Missiles	60
UK Press Cited on Disturbances in Soviet Union	61
Commentary on Shots Fired at U.S. Helicopters	62
Missile Attacks, Bombings, Operations Continue	62
Missile Hits Baghdad TV Station	62
Jets Bomb Iraqi Installations	62
IRGC Fires Missile at Al-Mawsil	62
Communique No 3,134	62
Iraqi Missile, Air Attacks	63
IRGC Fires Missile at Baghdad	63
'Several' Killed by Missile	63
Missile Hits Residential Area	63
IRGC on Shelling Iraqi Target	63
IRGC Fires 25th Missile at Iraq	63
Police Chief on Security	64
69 Ba'thist 'Agents' Captured	64
Commentary Links Superpowers With Iraqi Attacks	64
Commentary Links USSR With Missile, Afghanistan	65

'Propaganda' Distorting Soviet Approach to War [Radio of the Iranian Toilers]	65
Farhadi Cables UNESCO on Iraqi 'Crimes'	66
Mujahidin Head Holds Meetings With Leaders	66
Velayati Replies to Rabbani	66
Rabbani Denounces Geneva Talks	66
Rabbani Received by Khamene'i	67
Meets With Mo'ayyeri	67
Afghan Group Meets With Khamene'i	67
Khamene'i Receives Martyrs' Families	67
Khamene'i Attends IRGC University Graduation	68

Pakistan

Parties' Conference on Afghanistan Ends	68
Junejo Reiterates Position	68
Paper Assails Indian Leaders' Statements [THE MUSLIM 26 Feb]	69

Sri Lanka

LTTE Said 'Growing Increasingly Desperate'	69
Athulathmudali Addresses Party Meeting	69
LANKA PUWATH Details 'Terrorist' Incidents	70

8 March Middle East and South Asia Review

LD081423 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Bus Hijacking—The actions of three terrorists who were killed by security forces after hijacking a bus on the Beersheba-Dimona road were "PLO terrorism in all its vile manifestation," Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asserted in a statement to the Knesset broadcast by IDF radio. Three Israeli citizens were killed, two others sustained "medium" wounds, and several were slightly injured during the incident, he noted. The terrorists killed one of the Israeli passengers on the bus several hours before the vehicle was stormed by a special police antiterrorist unit. Two Israeli women were killed just before or during the storming operation, Rabin added. The terrorists had commandeered the vehicle "for bargaining purposes," he asserted, noting that during negotiations prior to the storming they said they belonged to a "Fatah-Abu Jihad squad."

Further details of the affair were provided by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, head of the IDF Southern Command, who told Jerusalem radio that the hijackers' demands had included the release of Palestinian detainees and terrorists. The decision to storm the bus was taken after the terrorists had started shooting people inside. Noting that one of the terrorists was found to carry papers identifying him as a resident of the Egyptian side of Rafah, Mordekhay said Israel takes a "sad and serious view" of recent terrorist attempts to enter its territory through the Egyptian border, adding that Israel must urge the Egyptians to make great efforts to prevent such infiltrations.

However, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official cited by Radio Monte Carlo denied that the three bus hijackers entered Israel from Egypt, claiming that this is "impossible" because of the intense and continuous surveillance on both sides of the border.

The PLO took responsibility for the hijacking in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, indicating that the operation was in revenge for the "Cyprus martyrs," three PLO officials who were killed in Limassol 14 February. The Palestinian squad seized a bus transporting "nuclear experts and scientists" working at the Dimona nuclear reactor, the PLO spokesman said, adding that "our three heroes" killed "all" the bus passengers after the Israelis rejected their demands.

Occupied Territories—IDF soldiers fired at residents in a village near Hebron after a handgrenade was thrown at the soldiers during a demonstration, IDF radio reported. Seven villagers were injured by gunfire while one IDF soldier was hurt in the grenade attack.

Following the PLO's appeal for Palestinians to resign from jobs in the Israeli Civilian Administration, THE JERUSALEM POST reported that the Arab employees of the Gaza Income and Property Tax Division have decided to resign en masse. The move effectively paralyzes the tax division, which annually collects revenue from Gaza that exceeds the total amount spent by the authorities on development of the region, the POST added. However, an Israeli official cited by the POST stressed that the Civilian Administration in the West Bank and Gaza is still functioning despite threats against its employees.

Peace Process—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will submit "alternative proposals" on self-administration in the territories during his trip to Washington, Jerusalem radio reported. Shamir's aides are also formulating proposals aimed at "replacing the international opening," the report added.

As for the political effect of the PLO's latest terrorist attack, Shamir told Jerusalem radio that it proves the PLO is no partner for a dialogue and that "it must be removed and annihilated." IDF radio broadcast Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' remark that the hijacking shows why the PLO is "disastrous for the Arabs and Jews alike," and he added that the PLO "manufactures tragedies and prevents solutions." In remarks carried by the radio, Yitzhaq Rabin likewise said the attack is further evidence that the PLO wants to "foil" all chances for peace. In his Knesset address, Rabin accused the PLO of seeking to dictate conditions to Israel through the combined pressure of stepped-up terrorist attacks and continuing violence in the territories.

PLO-Jordan

PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, arrived in Amman to preside over a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee meeting, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Meanwhile, Jordanian Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah announced that Jordan is "seriously studying" the U.S. peace proposals and believes the U.S. re-engagement in the peace process is "positive," according to the JORDAN TIMES. In contrast, a Fatah statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO warned against dealing with the Shultz plan and "falling into the U.S. trap."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran fired three more surface-to-surface missiles at Iraq, aiming for "military" targets in Mosul, Baghdad, and Al-Amarah, according to military statements carried by IRNA and Tehran radio. For Iraq's part, a military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio announced another "Al-Husayn" missile strike on Tehran, bringing the total number of missiles fired at the Iranian capital to 42. Iraqi aircraft also launched "devastating" raids on Arak, Hamadan, and Bakhtaran, according to a communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

On the casualty toll, IRNA stated that several Iranian civilians were killed or wounded in the latest Iraqi missile attack. Earlier missile attacks on Tehran 7 March killed 30 citizens and wounded over 100, Tehran radio reported. Iraqi statements carried by Voice of the Masses acknowledged that the missile attacks on Mosul and Baghdad inflicted "a number" of casualties.

In an interview with Tehran television, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani downplayed earlier Iranian accusations that the USSR has supplied Iraq with new missiles. After analyzing unexploded Iraqi missiles, Iranian experts now believe that while "the original missile was made in the Soviet Union, it is no longer exclusively Russian," he said. Most East Bloc countries assemble or manufacture this missile, he added, and Iraq could have obtained it from other sources. While stressing that the missile used by Iraq is the Scud-B, "the same thing that we too are using," he said the missiles fired at Tehran have been "clumsily tampered with" by the Iraqis, with assistance from "the Americans, the French, and others."

The Scuds' explosive power have been reduced from 800 kg to 160 kg in order to increase their range, he said, thus reducing their "great destructive power" to that of a "small bomb." Hashemi-Rafsanjani viewed the Iraqi missile offensive as a "big blunder" and he said Tehran residents have seen the "ineffectiveness" of these missiles.

In contrast to the Majlis speaker's claims, a Finnish security official cited by Helsinki radio maintained that the missiles hitting Tehran have warheads of around 1,000 kg, adding that they are damaging "large parts" of Tehran. His comment was contained in a report noting Finland's decision to evacuate diplomatic staff from Tehran because of the attacks.

In another development, a Tehran radio commentary stated that while retaliatory measures are necessary, they are "not sufficient," and "the major reply to the enemy should be given on the fronts."

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, who went to the USSR "some time ago for a medical checkup," was welcomed home by a number of party and government officials, Kabul radio reported.

Egypt

Police in Asyut arrested a group of "extremist students" who disrupted a university musical program, damaging instruments and other property, MENA reported.

Libya

Pursuant to an announcement from the Foreign Liaison Bureau, 130 foreign prisoners were released into the custody of their respective diplomatic representatives, JANA reported.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Confirms Responsibility for Hijacking *NC071748 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 1719 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Excerpt] There was a dramatic development in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory today when an armed group, most likely a Palestinian one, carried out a sensational hostage-taking operation in south Israel. Six people, three Palestinians and three Israelis, were killed in the operation, and seven others were wounded.

A spokesman for Fatah's Force-17 has contacted the AFP office in Jerusalem and claimed responsibility for the operation. In Tunis, meanwhile, the PLO denied its connection with the operation, but changed its mind later and claimed responsibility. [passage omitted]

Group Claims Responsibility *JN071942 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic* 1916 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command—date not given]

[Text] Pursuant to instructions issued by the Al-'Asifah Forces General Command, one of our groups operating in the occupied homeland has carried out the operation of the Cyprus martyrs. Our group took over a Zionist intelligence car in which three intelligence officers were riding, killing its occupants. After this, the group took over a Zionist bus transporting 50 nuclear experts and scientists who work in the Dimona nuclear reactor. Our group clashed for 3 and 1/2 hours with the Zionist forces which rushed to the scene of operations.

Our three heroes killed all those present in the bus after the enemy rejected the three strugglers' demands. These strugglers are Abu Hasan, Marwan, and Halbi. Our strugglers' demands were to liberate Palestinian detainees from the Zionist prisons of oppression and to halt the arbitrary measures against the sons of our people, wherever they are.

We pledge to our martyrs that we will remain loyal to their pure blood until certain victory is scored. Glory and immortality to our hero martyrs. Revolution until victory.

'Arafat Receives Message from Soviet Leaders *LD071012 Kuwait KUNA in English 0820 GMT* 7 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, March 7 (KUNA)—Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat has received a message from the Soviet leadership. Palestinian News Agency 'WAFA' reported last night, without revealing contents of the message. Palestinian sources, however, said that the message is on recent political drives and outcome of the tour made by U.S. Secretary

of State George Shultz to the Middle East lately. WAFA said that the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia conveyed the message during his meeting with 'Arafat yesterday.

Faruq Qaddumi Comments on Shultz Proposals *JN061354 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic* 1215 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Nabil Darwish in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Darwish] Faruq Qaddumi, head of Palestinian diplomacy: The Egyptian papers on 5 March reported remarks attributed to journalists who accompanied U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his second tour. According to these remarks, Israel is prepared to negotiate with a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation and is prepared to negotiate over the Golan. What is your comment?

[Qaddumi] First, the important thing at this stage is the uprising and supporting the uprising. Other matters must not divert our attention away from the uprising and from supporting it. With regard to our assessment of the U.S. stand we know that the U.S. Administration is in a weak position. This is an election year. All these moves do not at all aim to find a just and lasting solution in the Middle East. Frankly and clearly, the aim of such moves is to calm down the uprising. I do not believe that Israel, which is waging a battle against mankind and human values and is carrying out the ugliest actions in our occupied territory, is prepared to say such words and express the intention that it wants peace.

The Palestinian people who have now risen affirm clearly that the goal is to end the occupation. Let the United Nations come and take over the administration of the occupied territory following the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces. Then the situation will be ready and a favorable climate will be created for a discussion over a successful international conference that enjoys all the necessary conditions so it will be a conference capable of reaching a final solution to the Middle East conflict.

[Darwish] George Shultz gave the states which he visited a period of 10 days in which to reply to the latest U.S. proposals. Have the Arab sides with whom George Shultz met informed you of the contents of the U.S. proposals?

[Qaddumi] We have been informed of the U.S. proposals by various sources, even from the papers. There is nothing hidden from anyone. Shultz has come with old and outdated ideas which have been repeatedly rejected by our people who are not prepared to listen to such views. He has not brought anything new. He is moving as though he is moving inside a circle and without leaving a circle defined for him by the U.S. Administration. It is a move that is not bringing fruitful results. It is a political

move to make world public opinion think the United States is proceeding along the path of finding a just solution or a political settlement. As for the claim that the United States has given ultimatums so Israel will respond to such ultimatums, it was clear from Mr Shultz' talks with some Palestinian personalities outside the occupied territory that the U.S. Administration is not prepared to put pressure on Israel.

[Darwish] But some Arab parties which criticized Shultz' first proposals have described the new proposals as encouraging. President Husni Mubarak yesterday described the new U.S. proposals as encouraging. Have you read the latest U.S. proposals? I say there may have been proposals different from those presented during the first tour.

[Qaddumi] I cannot say I have read any proposals that could lead to a just settlement of the Middle East crisis. The United States is still going round in circles. The Egyptian press may be saying these things as an expression of optimism or out of a desire to encourage all parties to exert every effort to convene an international conference. But the fact is the results so far do not augur well.

[Darwish] But many Western public circles think an international conference requires initial steps. What are the initial steps which in your opinion the PLO will accept?

[Qaddumi] The two basic conditions for an effective international conference with powers are: 1. Comprehensive withdrawal. 2. UN administration of the occupied territories. This is what will create the right atmosphere for an international conference. The world has talked about an international conference for many years. We cannot continue talking on the subject. We must take wide steps toward the conference. What will make us take such steps is for Israel to stop its practices inside the occupied territories and withdraw immediately and the United Nations must assume responsibility for administering these territories. This is what will create the right and suitable atmosphere for an international conference.

[Darwish] You are therefore pessimistic about the nature of the current political moves. On the other hand, you are optimistic about what is taking place in the occupied Arab territories. But the uprising does not cancel the daily political action. What will be the PLO's daily political action on Arab and international levels?

[Qaddumi] First of all, I am an optimist by nature. However, I do not trust the U.S. stand or moves. If the United States is to change its stand, we must first change the balances of power in the region. The blessed uprising will force the United States and Israel to present new ideas. As you can see, we are moving in all international circles. But as the saying goes: Actions speak louder than words. Therefore, we say the action taking place in the

occupied territories represented by our people's heroic revolutionary struggle will chart the future map and determine the nature of the solution which we could reach in the near future.

[Darwish] What is the nature of the coordination that can take place with Jordan, for example?

[Qaddumi] Jordan is a fraternal country and is concerned about this matter. We are not only coordinating with Jordan, as a fraternal country, but also through the Arab League with all the Arab parties concerned. We have formed a seven-member committee to assume the task of managing political action in the international sphere and also in the United Nations. We are a basic member of this committee, which is chaired by the brother Algerian foreign minister.

[Darwish] Then, there are no higher levels of political action?

[Qaddumi] This is one form of political action and political moves. There are also the nonaligned countries, the international arena, the UN Security Council, and the visits we pay, particularly to European countries, which produce political, moral, and material support. In addition to this, our friends in the world, whether they are the nonaligned countries, Islamic countries, African countries, or the socialist countries headed by the USSR, provide us with political support for our moves in all parts of the world.

[Darwish] Is there anything new with respect to Syria?

[Qaddumi] With respect to fraternal Syria, several meetings were held between us and its foreign minister, brother Faruq al-Shar'. These meetings were fruitful meetings. We hope we can hold further meetings of this kind in the future and find a basis for the fraternal dialogue between us and fraternal Syria. The PNC expressed the need to restore normal relations with fraternal Syria. That's why the PLO exerts all efforts to reach a formula that will be acceptable to all sides so these relations may be restored to what they were in the past.

[Darwish] Will the escalation of Palestinian action in the occupied territories affect the tackling of Palestinian affairs in Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian state of affairs in any area has a direct and indirect impact on the nature of action in any other area, particularly in the occupied territories and in the territories near them. Our people are one people and they have achieved their political and social unity. They will inevitably achieve their geographic unity.

[Darwish] Have matters been settled with the other parties in Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] Some problems still exist but we are in the process of settling them. We exert every effort in this arena with the nationalist forces, Syria, and the Lebanese authorities to reach a formula acceptable to all so no problems may exist between us and any force, faction, or official in Lebanon.

Khalaf on Shultz Proposal, Ties With Syria
LD071026 Kuwait KUNA in English 0837 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 7 (KUNA)—A prominent Palestinian official said Monday that there is a secret U.S.-Israeli agreement toward the peace plan relayed by American Secretary of State George Shultz during his second Mideast tour which ended last Saturday. Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, added that this agreement makes the arrangements concerning the three-year autonomy to be granted to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to the U.S. plan, final, to be followed by a "camouflaged" international peace conference.

Khalaf noted that Shultz's plan is similar to the U.S. policy which keeps ignoring the Palestinian national rights and is no different from the 1979 Camp David accords despite the changes to make it look like it would be followed by an international conference. Shultz is due back in the region in 10 days to listen to the feedback to his plan from the parties concerned with the problem.

He warned, in an interview with daily "AL-WATAN" today, no Arab state is qualified to discuss the future of the Palestinian people without the participation of the PLO.

Regarding the Palestinian-Syrian ties, Khalaf said they are on their way to the better, hailing the Syrian stance toward Shultz's proposals. Damascus re-affirmed during the recent visit by the U.S. secretary of state that the Mideast problem can only be resolved through the convocation of an international conference, to be attended by all involved parties including the PLO.

He welcomed the call by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to hold an Arab summit on the Palestinian uprising, on the verge of its fourth month. The Fatah Central Committee member indicated that the Palestinian leadership is on continuous contact with Algerian officials to boost efforts in this respect.

On Peace Conference Delegation
JN080629 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has said that the Palestinians reject discussion of the formation of a joint delegation with Jordan or any other party, or even the formation of an independent delegation, unless an invitation is extended to the PLO to participate in an international conference. In an interview published in the British paper MIDEAST MIRROR, Abu Iyad, Fatah

Central Committee member, emphasized the Palestinians' determination to form an independent Palestinian delegation or to form a joint Arab delegation that includes independent sides.

Al-Sa'ih Says Shultz Proposals 'Nothing New'
NC070722 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has called on the Arab countries to extend material and moral support to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, noting that the continuation of this uprising depends upon such support.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih, who is visiting Cairo to attend the World Islamic Call conference, said, in an interview with the AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper published today, that one the most important consequences of the uprising is that the Palestinian people now unanimously agree they should continue to express their rejection of the occupation. He added that another major consequence is that UN Security Council Resolution 607 has acknowledged that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are occupied areas to which the 4th clause of the 1949 Geneva Agreements apply.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's visit to the region, Shaykh al-Sa'ih expressed his belief that Shultz has brought nothing new so far. He added in this respect that the United States, with its current policy, has not yet realized the significance of the uprising in the occupied territories. The PNC speaker said this uprising has proved that the Palestinian people despise and refuse to submit to the occupation and that they have despaired of the Israeli stance and the positions of those who support its atrocities and tragedies there which surpass the actions of the Nazis and Fascists and which have reached such a degree that Israel buries young men alive.

He added it is for these reasons that the proposals which Shultz has submitted so far are less than what the Palestinian people can accept, such as the Fes summit resolutions which were accepted unanimously by the Arabs. Shaykh al-Sa'ih noted that Shultz is urging the Arabs to make concessions which would require them to sell out their cause and homeland. The PNC speaker reasserted that the Palestinian issue cannot be resolved without the PLO.

Urges U.S. Recognition of PLO
NC071055 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has affirmed that the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will continue regardless of the sacrifices. In an exclusive interview with MENA, Shaykh al-Sa'ih asserted that the Palestinians are willing to sacrifice themselves and everything

they possess for the sake of delivering Jerusalem, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the occupied territories. He said the greatest goal of the uprising is the deliverance of the Al-Aqsa Mosque from occupation.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih called on the Islamic and Arab nations to support the uprising to enable it to continue. He urged Arab and Muslim leaders to extend all forms of aid to the uprising in view of the human losses and property damage that have resulted in this connection. These developments make it incumbent upon Arab and Muslim brothers to extend generous aid to the uprising so it may achieve its objectives, he added. Shaykh al-Sa'ih disclosed he will seek to persuade the World Islamic Call conference in Cairo, which he is attending, to adopt a resolution declaring that support for the uprising is an Islamic duty which Muslims must carry out.

Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih further noted that the World Islamic Call conference must consider the uprising as a form of jihad. He added it also must ask all Arab and Islamic countries to extend material support. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih said all Islamic and non-Islamic forces in the occupied territories are participating in the uprising because the entire Palestinian nation realizes it is being threatened and that the United States and Israel are not sincere in responding to its demands. [passage omitted]

The PNC speaker described the current situation in the occupied territories as dangerous. He said the Islamic world must not remain silent over this nor be slow in supporting the uprising so our brothers, who are participating in it, will not feel they are fighting alone with rocks. Shaykh al-Sa'ih said they must believe that all Muslims are fighting alongside them and are willing to support them until they fulfill their goals.

Responding to a question on whether he accepts Israel's condition that the Palestinian delegation to an international conference, if it is convened, must be comprised of Palestinians from the occupied territories, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: "If the United States and Israel recognize the PLO, then it would be possible for the PLO to choose the members of such a delegation from among the Palestinians in the occupied territories".

Regarding U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's proposals to resolve the Palestinian issue, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: "We are not interested in proposals that do not meet the minimum demands of the Arabs, Muslims, and Palestinians. Unless the United States agrees to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, we will not accept these proposals." [passage omitted]

PNC Official on Rejection of Shultz Proposals
LD080940 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT
8 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Mar, KUNA—Salim al-Za'nun, member of the Fatah Central Committee and deputy speaker of the PNC, the parliament in exile, in an interview published here today said the PLO will shortly embark on an Arab and international move to inform the Arab world and our friends of our rejection of the U.S. proposals recently carried to the region by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr al-Za'nun [words indistinct] in an interview with the Kuwaiti "AL-QABAS" which took place following the conclusion of the Fatah Central Committee's meeting in Tunis, stressed that no Arab state would accept what the Palestinians do not accept, be it an initiative brought by Shultz or any other initiative.

Mr Shultz last Saturday concluded two shuttle tours in the Middle East during which he informed Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Israeli officials of a number of new ideas for settling the problem in the Middle East. Shultz's initiative calls for granting the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip limited autonomy, which was rejected by Israel. Egypt voiced reservations on the ideas and Jordan requested amendments.

Mr al-Za'nun stressed that the PLO has agreed to the holding of an Arab summit to adopt a unified Arab stand rejecting the U.S. proposals, to discuss the question of providing support to the Palestinian people in their homeland, and to adopt an Arab strategy for the upcoming stage. He stated that Fatah Central Committee meetings have a high degree of significance, as in the course of the meetings the U.S. proposals were rejected and the development of the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories was endorsed, adding the uprising will continue until the aims and aspirations of our people have been accomplished. He drew attention to the fact that orders have been issued to the leaderships inside the occupied territories to begin civil disobedience and that as of 7 March collective resignations from work at Israeli offices will be tendered and taxes will not be paid. He emphasized that the emergency committee has issued its instructions in this regard.

Regarding Syrian-Palestinian relations, Mr Abu al-Adib [Salim Za'nun] said they have gone through new favorable stages in the course of returning them to normality after the success of the Algerian mediation. He noted that the PLO is waiting for the Syrian Government to set a date for the Palestinian delegation's visit. Syria announced its rejection of Shultz's initiative and said it was another copy of the Camp David Egyptian-Israeli agreements.

Fatah Statement on 'Uprising,' Shultz Plan
JN072019 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1813 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Statement issued by the Fatah Central Committee—
date, place not given]

[Text] O masses of our great Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory: Our people's great uprising is firmly and solidly entering its 4th month. By its continuation and escalation, the uprising changed all balances and calculations on which the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism wagered. It consecrated the militant constants imposed by the Palestinian struggle inside and outside our occupied territory and turned them into facts that cannot be ignored by any power in the region.

The Fatah Central Committee continued its constant meetings which were devoted to the important and serious developments taking place in our Palestinian arena as well as in the Arab and international arenas. These are headed by the means of escalating and developing the blessed uprising of our masses while concentrating on the importance of escalating revolutionary action on all fronts, including Lebanon.

The Central Committee expressed its pride in the spirit of the developed and creative militant popular achievement in the occupied territory. It is there that the people, armed with solid and vigorous will and determination, managed to confront the Zionist iron fist. They also managed to confirm the firmly-entrenched facts which stress that this blessed popular uprising is the uprising of all the people of Palestine inside and outside the occupied territory. They confirmed also that this uprising entrenches our people's unity as well as the unity of the cause, the unity of the leadership, the unity of the decision, and the unity of the objective. This uprising will continue and escalate until the Zionist occupation is ended and national independence is attained.

The Central Committee made a comprehensive evaluation of all its decisions vis-a-vis the escalation of the popular uprising in all ways of revolutionary action on the various fronts of action and struggle. It reviewed the new methods of action that guarantee the continuation and escalation of the blessed uprising. It stressed the importance of concentrating on further organization of our enlightened and solid masses which proved their originality, pioneering role, strength, and vigor. It also stressed the importance of Arab and international efforts so the international community will shoulder its political and moral responsibility toward securing international protection for the Palestinian people and for our children and women during the confrontation, away from the Israeli occupation, repression, and terrorism and until they can exercise their natural right to determine their future.

Moreover, we believe an international conference should be effective and have full powers. It should not be ceremonial or serve as an umbrella for unilateral and

suspect bargains. Hence, we welcome an international conference that has powers and is held under the aegis of the United Nations and with the participation of the Security Council's permanent member states and all parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of our Palestinian people, on an equal footing with all concerned parties.

The Central Committee also reviewed the circumstances and motives behind the U.S. Administration's dispatch of its secretary of state and envoys to the region. This was a bid to impose a new U.S. initiative aimed to abort and contain our people's revolution and uprising under all sorts of names. It was also intended to rescue Israel from its current plight. It is thus trying to push some Arab sides into accepting these dangerous schemes and participating in aborting the revolution and striking at and liquidating the Palestine question.

What Shultz is carrying is no more than a desperate attempt to revive Reagan's dead initiative and to impose it on the region. This proposal disregards the new facts and realities created by the Palestinian revolution and its masses throughout the militant march and the massive sacrifices offered in Sabra, Shatila, Al-Burj, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Galilee, and the Negev. The Palestinian reality cannot be ignored or overstepped. There can be no solution or stability in the region unless the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights are attained, headed by their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of an independent national state whose capital is Jerusalem.

The U.S. Administration is challenging international will and agreements by pursuing the PLO mission at the United Nations. This administration has lost its credibility as a mediator to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Hence, the Central Committee appeals to all the peoples of our Arab nation and all Arab officials to realize that this imperialist-Zionist design, which is trying to drive a wedge of division, is one of the main missions of the existence of the Zionist entity on our land.

The dimensions of Shultz' plan prompt us to warn against dealing with it and falling into the U.S. trap, which is aimed at liquidating our people's uprising and our just cause. We are confident our Arab nation will use all its power and capability to promote and support the Palestinian revolution's struggle and our masses' blessed uprising. Proceeding from the principle of the importance of and the need to achieve an Arab unity of position at this serious stage, the Central Committee has welcomed Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's call for convening a special Arab conference to discuss the uprising and the Palestine question. This is because any unified Arab position will play a decisive role in supporting the Palestine question and repulsing all the dangers of the plans aimed at liquidating the Palestine question. This was expressed in the PLO Executive Committee statement.

The Central Committee also reviewed the positions of the democratic Jewish forces, which bravely and clearly voice their support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. These forces have caused a Jewish uprising against the Zionist entity's rulers, the iron-fist advocates, and the U.S. policy which is aimed at perpetuating tension in the region rather than ending the conflict. This policy serves the interests of U.S. imperialism at the expense of all peoples in the region. By participating in the great campaign which took place in connection with the boat of return, the democratic Jewish forces voiced their support for the Palestinians' right to repatriation. This made the Zionist entity's rulers lose their senses because it has created a schism in what they call the Jewish right to repatriation.

The Central Committee also praised the brave position of all forms of international media, which made a great effort to portray a true picture of the Zionist entity's fascist and Nazi practices and to acquaint world public opinion with the real situation without any lies or tricks. Through its credibility, the Western press has ended the myth of Zionist control of the world's media. Human conscience will never allow the new Nazism and fascism to spread their hegemony.

The Zionist entity's rulers' decision to ban journalists, including Israeli journalists, from entering the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a self-condemnation of the Zionist entity and its preparations for a series of repressions to impose Shultz' new plan by using more force. But our heroic Palestinian people and their revolutionaries inside the occupied homeland know how to confront the interrogators and the hangmen inside the prisons and jails under the most difficult circumstance and even without nails. The will and determination of our people will never end. Our people will reply to the new Zionist policy with an escalation of a new kind. No power can shake the will of our heroic people, no plan can be carried out at their expense, and no solution can take place if the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights are ignored.

O heroes of our steadfast people in all places of struggle: The entire world is standing by your side and the Zionist entity is suffering from its fatal isolation. U.S. imperialism, which failed to protect its agents in Saigon, cannot save the Zionist entity. Long live the Palestinian revolution. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. Greetings to all of the prisoners and captives in the Zionist jails. Greetings to all of our brave wounded. Long live the victorious uprising. Revolution until victory.

W. Bank Mayors Cited on Autonomy, Jordanian Aid
JN061022 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
6 Mar 88 pp 1, 20

[By Sulayman al-Barmawi and Faysal al-Shubul]

[Excerpts] Ramallah Mayor Khalil Musa Khalil has asserted that the sweeping uprising by the sons of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied West Bank and

Gaza Strip against the Israeli occupation troops will continue as long as the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Arab territories is maintained.

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHA'B yesterday, Khalil added that the popular uprising which was caused by the suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli occupation and the measures used by the occupation authorities against all citizens of the occupied territories will only stop when the Israeli occupation is ended and when the Palestinian people are granted their right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Khalil said: There are no West Bankers who believe in autonomy. We do not believe a solution based on autonomy is the ideal solution to the Palestine question. We demand that a drastic, comprehensive, and just solution be found for the entire question. This solution must be represented by a complete Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He added: The U.S. Administration has so far not shown any sort of credibility. We hope the U.S. Administration will maintain a neutral stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict. If the U.S. Administration insists on the autonomy plan, this means the U.S. stand is promoted by a political maneuver that seeks to abort and end the uprising and save Israel from its current imbroglio which was caused by the uprising by the Palestinian Arab people who are suffering under occupation and under the measures and practices being perpetrated by the occupation authorities. He went on to say that the municipality has offered everything within its capabilities to the citizens. It offered financial assistance and assistance in kind to the families of those martyred, detained, wounded, and harmed, he said.

Khalil said: The measures taken by the Jordanian Government to support the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, such as allocating monthly salaries for the families of those martyred and harmed and to the families of students, are significant as they were taken to support the kinfolk's steadfastness. I thank the government for taking this step and hope that further assistance will be given to the kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Khalil added: I hope the Jordanian Government will continue to give the financial support allocated for the municipality by the Ministry of the Occupied Territories Affairs to enable the municipality to continue to render services to all sectors of our people to help them find work and remain steadfast on their land. He went on to say: The Ministry promised us that 600,000 Jordanian dinars will be immediately allocated for the municipality to help it carry out priority projects of importance to the citizens. [passage omitted]

Al-Birah Mayor Hassan al-Tawil has called on the Arab states to support the kinfolk in the occupied homeland in deeds and not words. He also called on the Arab states to

support the kinfolk's uprising which came to rehabilitate the Arab nation and indicated that the absence of an Arab commitment to support us is one of the pressures facing the uprising.

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHA'B, Al-Tawil said all Arab states are required to use the uprising to regain the legitimate rights of our people in the occupied homeland—the people who have risen up against the occupation and who are also determined to wrench victory even if this is to be attained on the body of the last man. [passage omitted]

On the recent Shultz tour of the region, the Al-Birah mayor said what has been so far disclosed about the U.S. plan carried by Shultz reveals that it is not a fair one. Shultz will not find any Arab who would accept it. This is not strange as the United States has become well-known for its bias toward Israel. He added that the current U.S. moves seek to weaken the uprising, as these moves contain nothing new regarding a comprehensive and just solution in the region. The United States is trying, in collusion with Israel, to drag the Arab states to negotiations with Israel to prevent the convening of an international peace conference and weaken the uprising at the same time.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Talks on Afghanistan Issue Continue in Geneva

Wakil News Conference

LD061919 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Report on news conference by Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil at the Palace of Nations in Geneva on 4 March—recorded]

[Text] At the beginning of this press conference the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan said: Due to repeated requests from journalists and as previously promised, I am here before you to answer your questions. However, I would like to begin by saying that the talks during the last 2 days were held in a good atmosphere full of confidence and if they continue in this way, no doubt we will sign the documents.

As you know, Pakistan has always held the view that the presence of the Soviet forces was a major obstacle and insisted that finding a solution for this issue would help resolve other issues. Based on Pakistan's proposals and according to the previous agreements between the Governments of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, and in accord with the spirit of the statements by President Najibullah and M.S. Gorbachev, the Afghan side agreed to a 9-month timeframe this morning. Moreover, in accordance with the spirit of the aforementioned statements, it was agreed that 50 percent of the forces will withdraw within the first 3 months and the remainder in the next 6 months.

Thus, the fourth document or the document on mutual linking has been fully agreed on by the sides and has been finalized. We hope that the remaining matters, which were always linked with the timeframe, will be soon resolved and that the Pakistani side will take a positive attitude. In our opinion, if we take steps courageously and independently, we will succeed in achieving peace to which all peace-loving peoples in the world and the people of Afghanistan are looking forward. We know that Mr Noorani [Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs] is leaving for Islamabad tomorrow and, as I have said before, any delay in negotiations is a threat to the peace process. However, we are hopeful that his return will be marked by a constructive attitude and give new impetus to the process.

The political solution of the situation around Afghanistan assists the process of national reconciliation and the formation of a government of national unity to the extent of a coalition and will speed it up. Both of these processes will result in peace and stability in the country. The question of forming a coalition government is for the Afghan people themselves to decide and, with the finalization of the Geneva process, they will travel this path quickly.

The formation of a government of national unity, like the process in Geneva, also needs time, but not so long. Our aim in forming a coalition government is not a tactical aim; it is a strategic aim. In our experience over the past 9 years, we have learned there is no military solution. We have the mechanism for forming a coalition government although we do not dictate that to any one. However, in consideration of the interests of the people of Afghanistan, they will travel that path. The mechanism of the policy of national reconciliation has linked political, economic, social, cultural, Islamic, and national aspects, and is in accord with the traditions and customs of our people. I am now ready now to answer your questions.

THE TIMES: You spoke about the formation of a coalition government and you said this process will need time. Can you tell us if the coalition government will be formed immediately after the signing of agreements and the [words indistinct] of the departure of the last Soviet soldier?

Answer: The process of resolving the situation around Afghanistan and the process of establishing a national government are linked logically. However, they are at the same time two separate and independent processes. In our opinion the Geneva agreements will give speed up the process of creating a coalition government. Both processes influence each other in the way that the process of national reconciliation influenced the Geneva talks. For example, the Geneva talks continued for 5 and 1/2 years with no consideration given to the process of national reconciliation, but in the 1 year since the process of national reconciliation was announced, see how much it has influenced the Geneva talks.

REUTER reporter: You said that the fourth document has been finalized. With regard to the talks that you had with Diego Cordovez, do you consider talks with Pakistan to be ended?

Answer: Provided that new obstacles do not arise, the major issues which Pakistan has always linked with the solution of the timeframe have almost all been eliminated. There is no obstacle remaining from our side.

TIME Magazine: You said that the timeframe link between the beginning and the conclusion of the withdrawal of the forces and the formation of a coalition government cannot be brought about. If in the course of 9 months of the withdrawal of the forces, the coalition government has not been formed, then who will guarantee the security of the country?

Answer: Our country has the strength to ensure this. If, in accordance with the Geneva documents, interference from abroad is ended with international guarantees in place, military camps are dismantled, and foreign aid is stopped, the security of the country and its independence and freedom will be maintained. In order to ease your mind, I would like to say that the formation of a coalition government does not depend on whether or not we can protect the country's security after the Soviet forces withdraw. Our aim is that a coalition government should be formed as soon as possible so that the war will be ended in the country and not flare up after the withdrawal—not because we do not have the power to defend the country.

REUTER reporter: Are you ready to unite your government through an agreement to bring about a government in accordance with sound coalition conditions?

Answer: We believe it is possible to form such a government with all sides including the seven groups, individual personalities, ministers, and prime ministers of previous regimes, and the supporters of the former king. However, with whom shall we sign such an agreement? The opposition is not prepared to talk. If your aim is Gulbuddin, Rabbani, Khalis, and Mujaddedi, we are ready to talk with everyone, individually or collectively, at any place. However, they are not ready to talk. With whom, then, shall we reach an agreement? With you?

AP reporter: According to the report by Ermacora [UN special representative], the refugees in Pakistan will not return home until a coalition government is in place. We know you want to form a strong and broad-based government under the National Front. However, whenever the National Front is mentioned, we think of the National Front in Czechoslovakia or the GDR. What do you say in this regard?

Answer: First of all, Ermacora does not have that impression. He came to Afghanistan several times and I met with him. He does not think that the refugees do not want to return and this is not contained in his report.

Ermacora travelled to the very eastern-most point of Afghanistan, that is, Torkham on the border with Pakistan and to the very western-most point, on the border with Iran, and he visited other Afghan towns. He told us he saw with his own eyes that the refugees are returning from Iran and Pakistan. He said that no one can convince him that the refugees are not returning. Furthermore, on 24 February the representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees came to Kabul and said he did not find even one refugee in Pakistan who said he did not want to return to Afghanistan.

Concerning the other part of your question, I would like to say that when you ask a question you should know its ramifications. A coalition government is never formed under the National Front. The National Front is one thing and the coalition government is another. Concerning the National Front, I would like to say that no [words indistinct] with this National Front of Afghanistan and the National Fronts of Czechoslovakia and the GDR exist. Those fronts are in a separate country and were formed many years ago under separate conditions for various reasons. The Afghan National Front has been formed under today's conditions and in accordance with the present conditions of Afghanistan. Thank you for your attention. We will see each other again in the coming days.

Talks Resume 7 Mar

LD080655 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT
8 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva, March 7, BAKHTAR—Talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan through the mediation of Diego Cordovez, special envoy of the UN secretary general resumed in Geneva today. The talks were halted for two days at the request of Zain Noorani, state minister for foreign affairs of Pakistan, who had gone to Pakistan for consultations with his government and leaders of political parties of that country.

Noorani on Latest Round

BK071650 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] The UN-sponsored proximity talks on Afghanistan continued in Geneva today. After the talks, the Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, told newsmen that we are trying to seek other side's cooperation. We have requested their cooperation and we hope they will realize this cooperation is in the basic interests of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. He said peace and tranquillity must prevail in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. Afghanistan should not be allowed to become a seat of disorder. All of us must try to stop the bloodshed there, Zain Noorani added.

Answering newsmen's questions, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that the progress [of the talks] does not depend on him and that Cordovez can be contacted in this regard. The progress of the talks depends solely on the other side, Zain Noorani observed.

Islamabad on Pakistan's Aims

*BK080319 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 8 Mar 88*

[Text] The proximity talks on Afghanistan will continue in Geneva today. The Pakistani delegation is led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani. Reports says that at yesterday's talks, which lasted for 3 hours, the Pakistani delegation assured UN Envoy Diego Cordovez of Pakistan's constructive and positive approach to the talks and asked for clarifications on six issues of the Geneva instruments which had been raised

on the 1st day of the talks. These include further details on ending hostilities, the first phase of Soviet troop withdrawal, and the question of how many troops should be withdrawn from any region.

Radio Pakistan's special correspondent Safdar Ahad in a dispatch from Geneva said that Pakistan has once again emphasized the importance of creating a situation in Afghanistan conducive to the return of Afghan refugees to their homes with peace and security. It has also been stressed that such a situation can be created only if a transitional government of true representatives of Afghanistan, including the refugees and the mujahidin, is established as soon as possible. According to circles close to the United Nations, there is a chance of accepting Pakistan's viewpoint. Of course, it is not yet clear that if such progress is made then what concessions the Soviet-Kabul side would expect from Pakistan.

Algeria

Iran's Larijani Reiterates Stand, Departs LD041748 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers, March 4, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani left here Thursday after delivering President Khamene'i's message to his Algerian counterpart Chadli Bendjedid. Upon his departure, Larijani told IRNA that in his talk with Algerian officials he made it clear that the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council should consult non-permanent members including Algeria which has become a member since January. Larijani said that the U.S. intends to use the Security Council as a weapon to achieve its aims and pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the security of the Persian Gulf Larijani said that he told Algerian officials that the Islamic Republic of Iran believes the Persian Gulf issue to be a regional one the security of which depends on the cooperation of littoral states. The two sides emphasized that the presence of U.S. and NATO forces like others in the region will increase tension in the region, Larijani said.

He observed that OPEC should be more active and Algeria and Iran should not let the prices fall as before and that the Islamic Republic of Iran will cooperate with Algerian Government for a coordinated policy.

On Afghanistan issue and Geneva talks Iranian deputy foreign minister said the principal stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran has not changed since the occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet forces. He said the Soviets should pull out unconditionally. It is the Afghan people who should decide for their future government, he said adding that Afghan mujahidin will not lay down arms until the occupying forces pull out. Larijani further said that the problem with Geneva talks is that it has ignored the Afghan mujahidin and Kabul government is illegal and that the East and West are unwarrantedly trying to strike a deal on Afghanistan.

The security of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan as two countries neighboring Afghanistan has been obviously threatened, Larijani said, stressing that the two countries which host five million Afghan refugees will help Afghan people get their rights.

On the current visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the Middle East and U.S. efforts to help the Zionist regime suppress the Muslim Palestinian uprising Larijani said that the Palestinian revolution is an Islamic one which has taken lessons from the Islamic revolution of Iran and which will not be halted by such visits.

The Muslim states, he said, are dutybound to assist Palestinian uprising by all means in a bid to foil plots of George Shultz and the Zionist regime and their lackeys in the region like King Husayn of Jordan and Husni Mubarak of Egypt.

Deputy foreign minister in his three-day official visit held talks with Algerian President Bendjedid and Foreign Minister Brahimi and commerce minister on bilateral ties, the situation in Persian Gulf, the Iraqi-imposed war and world oil market. Larijani arrived here from Argentina where he had met President Raul Alfonsin.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit LD052334 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Peruvian Foreign Minister Allan Wagner Tizon arrived in Algiers this afternoon on a visit to our country. He was welcomed at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs. In a press statement, the Peruvian foreign minister said the visit will give him the opportunity to discuss a number of important issue at bilateral and international levels. It will also enable him to exchange information on giving impetus to promoting bilateral relations via the Algerian-Peruvian mixed commission.

Ibrahimi, Wagner Open Talks LD060100 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Political talks were held today at the Foreign Ministry in the context of the official visit paid to Algeria by the Peruvian foreign minister. Talks began with a tete-a-tete between Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the FLN Political Bureau and foreign minister, and Allan Wagner Tizon, the Peruvian foreign minister. It was later extended to include members of both delegations. The two sides reviewed prospects of developing bilateral cooperation and developments in the two countries' regions. The two ministers expressed their satisfaction at the quality of political consultation between Algeria and Peru with regard to all issues of mutual concern.

Bendjedid Meets With Wagner LD071248 Algiers APS in English 1145 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers, 7/3/88 (APS)—"I had the honour to meet President Chadli Bendjedid to whom I handed a personal message from President Alan Garcia calling him to be part of a (?group that will) be entrusted with taking initiatives, in the frame of consultation, in order to find solutions to Third World and non-aligned countries problems and continue the struggle for the setting up of

international economic order", the Peruvian minister of foreign affairs, Allan Wagner Tizon, declared at (?the end of) of the audience he was granted by President Chadli Bendjedid.

The most urgent of these problems, the Peruvian minister indicated, are indebtedness, international trade and the scientific and technical progress in this post-industrial era whose technological complexity is only widening the gap between industrialized countries and developing countries.

Talks I had with the head of state also centered on bilateral relations, Allan Wagner Tizon added underlining the coincidence of points of view and the constancy of consultation between Algeria and Peru within the non-aligned countries and the UN.

The objective of the Algerian Peruvian joint commission created recently, he pointed out, is to reinforce cooperation in all fields mainly in the economic, technical, commercial and financial ones.

Progress on Joint Commission

*LD072254 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 7 Mar 88*

[Text] Algeria and Peru have made progress in setting up a joint commission. In Algiers the foreign ministers of the two countries signed a document on the exchange of the instruments of ratification. [as heard] The joint commission is expected to hold its first meeting during this year.

Mr Taleb Ibrahim and his Peruvian counterpart, Mr Allan Wagner Tizon, agreed to stress that this commission would give a fresh boost to cooperation between the two countries. During his stay, the Peruvian foreign minister was received by President Bendjedid, to whom he conveyed an invitation by President Alan Garcia to join a group working for the Third World and the nonaligned, a group entrusted with continuing the struggle for setting up a new international economic order.

Chad

Habre Receives French Cooperation Fund Director
*AB062033 Ndjamea Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 6 Mar 88*

[Excerpt] President Hissein Habre yesterday afternoon met for more than 1 hour with Yves Roland-Billecart, director general of the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation. The director general of this French economic cooperation institution has been in our country since 1 March. Since then he has visited many areas in the interior, mainly Sara and Faya-Largeau. He also visited some production units and held working sessions with many top Chadian officials. [passage omitted]

French Prime Minister's Adviser Visits Abeche
*AB052122 Ndjamea Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 5 Mar 88*

[Excerpt] The distinguished Mr (Wibaux), adviser to the French prime minister, arrived yesterday in Abeche, in the Ouaddai Region. He was welcomed in Abeche by (M'Bailao Miande), the deputy prefect of the Ouaddai Region. The purpose of the visit is for the French political official to personally see the realities of the region. Our reporter, Garmaga Baboumi, has the details from Abeche:

[Begin recording] The advisor to French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, accompanied by France's Ambassador to Chad Dutheil de la Rochere, has come here to see the realities of the region for himself. In an interview with journalists from Free Chad Radio regarding the purpose of his mission, Mr (Wibaux) stated he had brought a message from Jacques Chirac to President Hissein Habre and that he used the opportunity of this trip to visit Abeche. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

'Source' Denies 'Fedayeen' Crossed Border
*JN072107 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
2000 GMT 7 Mar 88*

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Cairo, carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] An official [Egyptian] source stressed to our radio that the Israeli insinuations that the three fedayeen involved in the Negev Desert operation had infiltrated across Egyptian borders are false.

Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani, director of the Palestine Desk at the Foreign Ministry, said the Egyptian security authorities had categorically denied this and emphasized that it is impossible because the Egyptian borders with Israel are intensely surveilled and continuously patrolled on both sides. Moreover, he said, it is illogical for any infiltrator to carry official papers or documents indicating his identity or his place of movement.

Ambassador al-Farnawani said these Israeli insinuations are due to the fact that some elements there wish to foil the peace process which began to be activated by George Shultz' encouraging initiative. Egypt supports this initiative and works for a comprehensive resolution of the Palestine question. It also supports the PLO's role and coordination between the PLO and Jordan and urges the United States to hold dialogue with a Palestinian delegation whose formation is approved by the PLO.

Border Crossing 'Impossible'
NC081018 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1045 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has warned the PLO that it will pay a very dear price for its act in the Negev Desert yesterday. He added that Israel will prevent terrorism by the PLO and its supporters. Shamir said that such acts are an obstacle to peace in the region, adding that the Palestinians are the ones who will suffer the consequences.

Meanwhile, an official Egyptian source affirmed today in a statement to the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD that it is impossible for any armed Palestinian to cross the Egyptian border with Israel. The source added that the border is under strict surveillance and constantly patrolled.

Libyan Planes To Return 'Within 48 Hours'
NC071451 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 7 (AFP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has said his country would return to Tripoli within 48 hours four Libyan MiG-23 jets which landed here last Tuesday, newspapers reported Monday. Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif, quoting the Egyptian president, said the decision was taken following mediation efforts by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, the newspapers reported. They quoted Mr al-Sharif as saying that the Libyan pilots had been "treated well."

The Libyan fighters, which were undergoing inspection by Libyan and Saudi technicians who flew in Sunday from Saudi Arabia, had reportedly made a forced landing at an Egyptian military airfield due to bad weather. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Addresses Islamic Call Conference
NC051043 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0925 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the opening session of the 11th World Conference for Islamic Call at Imam Muhammad 'Abduh Auditorium in Al-Azhar University in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Eminence, the grand shaykh of Al-Azhar, dear brothers and respected scholars; great guests of Egypt and the best of Islamic call propagators; my sons and daughters, students:

I am honored to welcome you in Egypt, in Al-Azhar, the oldest of all universities, the institution which has served knowledge and faith for over 1,000 years and is still the scientific mecca of all Muslims throughout the world. It

is my pleasure to express appreciation for the blessed efforts which made this conference possible and brought together so many distinguished scholars for the good of the Islamic cause.

As you know, the propagation of the faith is the duty of every capable Muslim, not least the specialists in Islamic call. Backing this cause is one of the foremost duties of Muslim leaders. The Muslim people should always encourage goodness and discourage evil. To cite from God's words in the Koran: "Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong." The Koran designates as the loftiest qualities of Muslims their dedication to what is right and true. In God's words: "We are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong."

The propagation of the word of God has always been a duty for the Muslims, a task which is even more urgent in our present day. Scholars, institutions, presidents, and governments of the Muslim world are equally responsible for shouldering this task in today's world when the Muslim world is under stress, struggling in the face of threats and obstacles to its progress. The true word of Islam, its tolerance, and loftiness of purpose have won the Muslims a great empire with a civilization which benefited Muslims and non-Muslims alike, and earned the respect of friend and foe.

Several evil factors coincided to fragment this great state, stop the tide of that great civilization, and impede the Muslims progress, rather, to push their movement backward and burden it with what would lead to its stagnation. I am not here to detail these evil factors which plotted and which had, very regrettably, achieved their objectives and plans. It is enough for me to say that several centuries after the success of the plot against it, Muslim society found itself living in obscurity and simultaneously the target of the ambitious, booty for the adventurers, and a share to be divided among the colonialists.

After this, God wanted this nation, which safeguards his word and carries his mission, to reemerge from the darkness and enter into the light. God provided this nation with sincere men and wise leaders who led its movement to the horizons of freedom. It regained its independence and dignity and it shed from its shoulders the yoke of imperialism and fetters of coercion. It took confident strides along the path of progress to regain the position it deserves as the best of peoples, evolved for mankind. However, impediments of a different kind were placed on the road again, as if other evil forces did not want our nation to rise and regain its place under the sun. These impediments varied, their fields became manifold, and their aspects differed, but they all agreed on the plot of obstruction, division, and disintegration.

One of the signs of these disintegrating and divisive impediments is the bloody conflict between two Islamic states. The one who insists on the continuation of this conflict claims that his aggression is an Islamic tide and his bloody action is a struggle for the sake of Islam. This is despite the fact that Islam very clearly and frankly forbids a Muslim to shed the blood of his Muslim brother, stressing that his blood, honor, and property are as sacred as the sanctity of the house of God in God's land on the great day of pilgrimage. [applause] Indeed, Islam recommends that the Muslim wish for his brother what he loves for himself, and to make such love one of the underpinnings of faith.

Another sign of the impediments with which the Muslims are plagued are the divisionist and fragmentary ideological differences which at times portray the Muslims as though they belong to several religions and not one. This is despite the fact that one of the basic characteristics of Islam is that it is a religion which calls primarily for uniting the word and rank, and for keeping away from anything which might divide the group and scatter the nation. How splendid is our Lord's saying in his dear book: "And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves"; and how splendid is his saying: "And fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart."

Some of the obstacles which had afflicted Islamic society resulted from the interest of some people in the form and not the substance. They abided by the external appearance and ignored the contents. Those people are wasting their efforts and are sapping their potentials in an impotent argument and fruitless activities, which can not help a cripple, develop a retarded person, or achieve good results. It is surprising that all this is taking place when our Islamic world is suffering from negative aspects. All efforts should be pooled to avoid such aspects and remedy their bad effects. We regrettably must admit that our society is located in the backward region, or what is politely called the developing world.

We need a renaissance in the various scientific, economic, and social fields so that we will not live as importers of technology, or rather of agricultural and industrial products and most of the means of livelihood. We need this renaissance so that we will not remain a burden on others in issues affecting our food and basic needs. Among the obstacles which impede the movement of the Islamic society on the path of progress, and which threaten its secure existence and its aspired unity, is the appearance of extremist groups. These groups might have good and honorable intentions, but most of them, regrettably, have abandoned Islam's tolerance and spirit of mildness. They have also neglected Islam's call for peace, security, amity, human understanding, and avoiding seditions. They even abandoned the grounds on which the call should be based as advocated by Islam—wisdom, good lesson, and civilized reasoning.

Truly, they have abandoned all this and accused society of being infidel at times, and they have boycotted and abandoned society at other times. Many of these groups have resisted society and often fought against it with weapons. These are some of the transient phenomena confronting the Islamic society, which is forging ahead toward progress after a period of stagnation. Our society was awakened after centuries of slumber. Our Islamic society, thanks to its scholars and leaders and to the sacrifice of its sons and martyrs, managed to regain its freedom and dignity, and then to make the first strides toward achieving its awakening, attaining its sovereignty, and championing its Islamic rank.

Hence, the need for the call. These gains, which had been accomplished by the Islamic society through the blood of its heroes and the sacrifice of its men, should not be affected by these obstacles, of which I have just given examples. The national Islamic call is the one capable of safeguarding these gains and of protecting Islamic thinking, manners, and security from all dangers threatening it, and all the obstacles and conspiracies standing in the way of its prosperity.

The Islamic call is requested to bring up the children according to the spirit, tolerant rules, and refined ethics of Islam, so that the introduction of Islam to the youth would not be confined to mere lecturing without proper upbringing, or instructing without practicing. This entails the need for the Islamic call to assume its role in the educational process and to fulfill its duty in our society to reawaken consciences, purify souls, and rectify manners, from the early days of youth. The call is also requested to guide the youth toward the correct course of Islam, which propagates love for the homeland and fraternity among citizens; the road of Islam that motivates affiliation, not estrangement or alienation; the road of Islam that calls for serious work, abundant production, and strenuous struggle for the sake of oneself, others, and the entire Islamic nation. [applause]

The call is requested to enlighten the Muslims about their religion and the teachings of their God, so that they could worship Him with awareness and vision, and so that worshipping could bear its desired fruit in elevating the soul, refining the spirit, awakening the conscience, and rectifying the manners, ultimately leading to bringing up a good citizen in a healthy society within a decent homeland.

The call is also requested to rectify extremist thinking, and to explain to its proponents, by means of a sincere and courageous scientific dialogue, such defects in this thinking, which are alien to the substance of Islam. Perhaps these defects became attached to this thinking as a result of inaccurate understanding, unfamiliar knowledge, or the acquisition of an alien belief that could have arisen out of special political or social circumstances. Perhaps such a belief originated from other countries, whose circumstances obliged some of its ulema to voice an opinion within the context of a struggle against a

teacherous colonizer or a despotic and unjust foreign ruler. This belief was then adopted and a request was made to apply it in an Islamic society that had no teacherous colonizer or an unjust foreign ruler.

The call is also requested to point out to the Islamic rulers who fight their brothers in religion that their deeds do not have any connection whatsoever with Islam. Islam is a faith of peace and love, fraternity and civility, care and goodness to others. The true Muslim never brandishes a weapon in the face of his brethren. The true Muslim state should not threaten its neighbors in the name of Islam. Conspiracy against Muslims is not a Muslim trait. [apause]

The Islamic call is requested to direct a significant part of its activities to the non-Muslim world to acquaint this world with the true Islam, its loftiness of purpose, and its message to civilization. We need to tell the world of our religious values, our shining history, and glorious civilization. The truth should emerge, the doubts vanish, and the distorted picture which sick minds have portrayed of Islam and the Muslims should be dispelled. Certain wrongs done by some people who claim to be Muslims did not help enhance the image of Islam, nor did our tendency to neglect Islamic call in the outside world. The fruitless depositions and garrulous debate that could only lead to wider schisms among Muslims, if not fighting, also did not help.

What the Islamic call needs at this juncture of our history is a clear methodology in terms of the goals and the means and, above all, a proper definition of the purpose and preparation of the people undertaking the propagation. Those involved in the Islamic call must acquire a certain measure of specialization. Not every man can be a good propagator of the faith in the strict sense of the term, because religious sentiment is a general attribute of men, whereas propagation is a specialized field. I may even say that scholarly knowledge alone is not enough to guarantee the propagator success. The call for Islam is a mission which requires knowledge, art, talent, experience, training, means, and methods.

Your Eminence, the grand imam and shaykh of Al-Azhar, dear and distinguished brother scholars, noble guests of Egypt; the elite of the Islamic Call; my student sons and daughters, the Islamic Call can achieve one of its greatest successes by insuring that our youth are raised according to a correct Islam and taught their divine religion. It can succeed by guiding the Muslim people to adopt Islamic values and characteristics, to follow the path of God's Prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, and his companions. The Islamic Call can succeed by correcting the extremists' thoughts, making them understand Islam's generosity, mildness, and duty, which is based on wisdom, guidance, and peaceful discussion. The Islamic Call must convince these extremists that the elimination of evil does not mean that those who commit the evil can be assaulted and punished by anyone. This is the duty of the person who has the right to inflict such a punishment

and who is responsible for taking care of the interests of the public. In addition, the Islamic Call can succeed by creating a general Islamic view which rejects both fighting between two Muslim armies and threats from one Muslim state to another.

The elite who seek success for the Islamic Call can make great contributions through the proper preparation of its propagators, graduating capable, knowledgeable, and intelligible people who are aware of the essence of contemporary life; who are equipped with all means of persuasion and influence; whom people consider as examples of wisdom, spirituality, tolerance, and good character; and who understand human nature, society's problems, and the needs of all segments to which the call is directed.

Therefore, in my view, your conference has a great mission at this period in our nation's life. I am confident that you are capable of carrying out this mission with your noble goal, your great knowledge, your heartfelt belief in your religion and nation, and your devotion to your message. May God help you succeed, may He, through you, allow aspirations to be met, may He give success and guidance to the correct path. May God grant us all success, and may His peace and mercy be upon you.

'Extremist Students' Arrested in Asyut
NC080647 Cairo MENA in English 2305 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, March 7 (MENA)—The security forces, according to an Interior Ministry official source, arrested tonight a group of extremist students of Asyut, Upper Egypt. The students, said the source, were trying to storm the auditorium of the new university stadium, where the University of Asyut was giving a musical evening marking the imminent end of the academic year.

"The prosecution is questioning the defendants, who stormed the auditorium, carrying fire-arms, side-arms and iron chains", said the source, indicating that they damaged the musical instruments, sound apparatus and the rest of the contents of the auditorium.

"The situation was brought in hand and the prepared evening programme was continued," the source said.

"A number of students were participating in this evening, which was given under the auspices of the rector within the framework of the university's social activity," the source said.

EEC's Cheysson Arrives for Official Visit
NC051840 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT
5 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—EEC Commissioner General Claude Cheysson arrived in Cairo from Brussels this evening on an official 3-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Cheysson said on arrival that he will meet with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to discuss a number of issues related to the Middle East situation and the special relations between Egypt and the EC. He praised Egypt's successful policy and its role in the Arab region following the restoration of its diplomatic relations with most Arab countries. He added that he will also hold talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; the ministers of foreign affairs, planning, and administrative development; and the minister of state for foreign affairs. He was received at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi.

Meets With Mubarak, Comments
NC061102 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT
6 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—EEC Commissioner General Claude Cheysson has affirmed that the relationship between Egypt and the EC is proceeding well.

In a statement to journalists today following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak, Cheysson pointed out that he had informed President Mubarak about the EC's understanding of Egypt's economic situation in light of its development plans. He noted that all the subjects of interest between Egypt and the EC will be discussed during his meetings with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the ministers concerned. He expressed his pleasure at meeting with President Mubarak today, noting that they reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf, as well as the positive developments regarding the issue of Afghanistan, which, he said, are welcomed by the EC. Cheysson added that the meeting also had touched on some economic topics.

Meanwhile, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the meeting between President Mubarak and Cheysson was fruitful and extremely useful. He noted that the talks during the meeting dealt with Egyptian-EC relations, which he described as excellent.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that the 3d financial protocol, which was signed last October, is currently regulating Egyptian-EC cooperation. He praised the role that Cheysson had played in this regard. Dr 'Abd al-Majid went on to say that the situation in the Middle East and the European stands on this issue were also discussed during the meeting.

In his statement, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Egypt highly appreciates the aid it is receiving from the EC in the various political and economic fields. He affirmed that the relations between Egypt and the EC serve the issue of peace in the Arab region.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid maintained that the EC supports all efforts that aim to establish peace in the Middle East region. It also supports the convening of an international peace

conference. He noted that Egypt and the EC hold similar views in this regard, viewing it as an ideal means for realizing a peaceful settlement to the Middle East problem.

Cheysson is expected to hold a news conference at the end of his talks with the prime minister and the ministers tomorrow, Monday.

EEC Role in Region Viewed
NC061531 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT
6 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid today discussed with EEC Commissioner General Claude Cheysson ways of bolstering relations between Egypt and the EEC states, Europe's role in giving an impetus to the peace process, and Middle East developments.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that it is important that the EEC states exert efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, pointing out that this region is very important to Europe's security. He also pointed out that in view of its strong relations and its credibility with the parties to the dispute, the EEC is the party most suitable in helping to solve the Middle East problem.

'Abd al-Majid said that the EEC statements on the Middle East problem include just principles and bases that which must be implemented, and it is time to implement them.

Claude Cheysson reiterated that the EEC is fully committed to its resolutions supporting the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Cheysson arrived in Cairo yesterday for a 3-day visit in response to an invitation by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Cheysson on Talks, EC Aid
NC071905 Cairo MENA in English 1810 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, March 7 (MENA)—Claude Cheysson, European Economic Community commissioner, said that the EC will offer aid to Egypt for vegetable oil production and for medium and small enterprises as well as power projects. He added that his talks with President Husni Mubarak and officials in Egypt covered the enhancing of relations between the EC and Egypt in the industrial, tourist and services domains. He said that the EC was working to increase European investments in Egypt and the entry of Egyptian industrial products into Europe. He further said that the EC countries offer food aid worth between 40 to 45 million dollars annually to Egypt.

On the U.S. secretary of state's proposals on the Middle East issue, Cheysson said that the American initiative was still not clear. He expressed hope that the Israeli Government does not reject it, saying that it would be dangerous to obstruct this initiative.

Talks End, Departure Noted

NC081112 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1048 GMT
8 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—EEC Commissioner General Claude Cheysson left Cairo this morning after a 3-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. Cheysson was seen off at the airport by Isma'il Mubarak, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Chad's Habre To Meet 11-12 April
LD071907 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou has announced that Libyan President Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi and Chadian President Hissein Habre will meet in Dakar on 11 and 12 April. The meeting will take place in the presence of an OAU commission in order to settle the dispute existing between their two countries over the Aozou Strip.

He said in an interview with the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) that the OAU Ministerial Council decided at a recent meeting to pass on to the Dakar meeting the report prepared by the organization's ad hoc commission in charge of the file on the Libyan-Chadian dispute.

Further on Ra's al-Unuf People's Congress

Opposition Praises Al-Qadhdhafi
LD030330 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT
2 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Mar (JANA)—Citizen 'Abd al-Munim al-Tahir al-Huni, who was a member of the Revolution Command Council during the seventies, has sent a letter of congratulations and support for the speech given by the brother leader of the revolution on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the establishment of people's authority and the birth of the first jamahiriyyah in history. He emphasized that this speech was in accordance with the principles raised by the great Al-Fatih Revolution at its beginning and that it confirms the rights of and equality between Libyans, whether they reside in the country or abroad.

2 Commissions Established

LD032152 Tripoli JANA in English 1833 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Ra's al-Unuf, Mirrikh [March] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The General People's Congress this morning resumed its proceedings of its 14th ordinary session at the conference hall of the city of Ra's al-Unuf.

During the morning's session two commissions were set up, the first to draft the decisions of the basic people's congresses related to internal policies, the general reports and the programme of revolutionary action.

The second commission is entrusted with the task of debating foreign policy and general reports.

The commission of internal policy began reviewing the decisions of the basic people's congresses on producer society and one of the leading observations made by the people's congresses in this regard an end to the construction invasion on agricultural lands by carrying out a scientific study and the application of the law protecting agricultural lands and the encouragement of production based on palm trees and olives and the expansion of the programme of revolutionary agricultural guide and agricultural information as well as the consolidation and encouragement of the programmes of setting up water tanks and wells and the introduction of mechanisation in agriculture [sentence as received].

Algerians, Tunisians Speak

LD041039 Tripoli JANA in English 0845 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Ra's al-Unuf, Mirrikh [March] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The General People's Congress resumed yesterday its proceedings. Djelloul Melaika, the member of the Central Committee of the FLN and vice president of the National Assembly in sisterly Algeria, addressed the Congress hailing this historical occasion and the political awareness amongst the Libyan Arab masses and the struggle against colonialism and imperialism.

He lauded the assistance provided by the brotherly Libyan Arab people with the Algerian revolution during the struggle against French colonialism where the blood of the brothers was mixed which will be feeding for ever the tree of unity and freedom.

Djelloul Melaika pointed out that the meeting of the General People's Congress is coming at a crucial time as the massive popular revolution is going on in occupied Palestine against Zionist occupation and their allies.

He condemned the silence of Arabs while the Palestinians are being subjected to the worst forms of torture and persecution and murder.

He aluded the historical meetings between the leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid at Ain Amentas and Surt as well as subsequent meetings the latest of which embraced the two leaders and president Zine El Abidine of Tunisia at Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf. He made clear that the enemies of the Arab nation are gathering strength as a result of lack of Arab unity.

Azouz Rebai, the member of the Central Committee of the Tunisian Socialist Alliance, read out the speech of Rachid Sfar, the president of the Tunisian parliament. He expressed his pleasure at attending the meeting of the General People's Congress to see the Libyan Arab experiment effected by the Great Al-Fatih revolution and their debate on internal and external matters.

He welcomed the meeting of the Congress at a time the Republic of Tunisia is living a new era as a result of the historical change at the head of the state in accordance with the constitutional legality.

He pointed out that this meeting is taking place at a time normal relations resumed between the two sisterly countries and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met with leader Mu'amar al-Qadhafi first in Tunisia and then in the company of President Chadli Bendjdid on the land of sacrifice and martyrdom and fraternity—Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf.

He asserted that this meeting represents part of the process of bolstering the line between the Arab Tunisian and Libyan people within the context of the lofty principles of genuine fraternity and mutual respect.

Hungarian-Israeli Ties Viewed

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Television Service in Arabic at 0740 GMT on 7 March is observed to carry a live relay, already in progress, of the proceedings of the General People's Congress from Ra's al-Unuf. The time that the live relay commenced is not known.

The picture shows officials seated on a platform and then cuts to the delegates seated in the auditorium. None of the officials are identifiable. The format of the session involves various speakers addressing those assembled either from the platform or from the auditorium.

The first hour of the debate is devoted to domestic economic projects. The next issue is the inefficiency of Libyan embassies abroad. Delegates make various remarks in this regard. A member of the Foreign Liaison Committee Secretariat addresses the issue of diplomatic contacts between Israel and Hungary.

The official says: "Here is a resume of a memorandum submitted by the revolutionary force in the Hungarian arena, and we must review the responsibility of the Foreign Liaison Bureau concerning this.

"The memorandum says in brief: Attention has been drawn in the past to the fact that contacts have been taking place to open a consulate of the Zionist enemy in Hungary. This has actually happened. Arab response to the opening of a Zionist consulate in Hungary has been feeble. The memorandum points out that the Arab reply

in general has been feeble. It appears that the Eastern bloc states were waiting for the reaction of the Arab governments, through their embassies in Hungary, to assess the situation.

"The revolutionary force has noticed the increase in the number of Jews who pass through Hungary in transit. This is in addition to an increase in the delegations and the official Zionist personalities. All this foretells the transformation of Hungary into a major transit route for Jewish immigrants to occupied Palestine.

"Several problems have emerged as a result of the increase in the number of Libyan Arabs in Hungary. The number rose to 17,000 in 1987. The Hungarian media continue to distort the image of the Arab man by presenting and showing anti-Arab material.

"The people's bureau in Budapest began to live in a sea of administrative barrenness and inability in dealing with these issues. Indeed, it revealed a frightening incompetence. Its role became merely to offer personal services to cronies, acquaintances, and persons of high standing, and to make private gains. All this was because most of the members of the bureau lacked competence and revolutionary, political, and administrative ability.

"The people's bureaus bear full responsibility for being incapable of following up on the most important issues: activities and political developments in the Hungarian arena. There is complete unawareness of revolutionary activities; they offer no aid to the casualties of the battles of the south [not further specified]; there is no follow up to what is written and published in the Hungarian information media. There is even a lack of bureau control over the Libyan Arab Airline in Hungary; the Libyan Arab Airline offices include unqualified elements whose behavior is disgraceful, which have caused it to become an object of ridicule and to lack respect.

"The revolutionary force in the Hungarian arena proposes the presence of a popular committee with revolutionary tendencies and qualified administrative elements to run the people's bureau, the military liaison bureau, and the airline company; to implement revolutionary and political tasks; to sign a comprehensive agreement with Hungary; to reduce the number of tourists, and to reconsider the question of seeking medical treatment in Hungary, even if this requires the opening of a medical liaison bureau [as heard]."

At this point the speaker is interrupted by another speaker who addresses the gathering on a different issue, complaining that the previous speaker had spoken for too long.

The debate is adjourned at 1003 GMT and resumes at 1044 GMT with further discussion of the conduct of Libyan embassies abroad.

An unidentified official then responds to the questions raised by the delegates and finishes speaking at 1155 GMT.

The Congress then goes on to discuss the activities of the General People's Committee on Planning. At 1300 GMT, the secretary of the people's congress in Naples calls on Libya to beam radio programs to Italy and to promote Libyan ideas abroad. The session is then adjourned at 1309 GMT.

The deliberations resume at 1402 GMT with discussion devoted to the performance of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport.

The session of the General People's Congress ends at 2017 GMT, at which time the relay ends.

Official Meets USSR Delegation

LD071749 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1617 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Mar (JANA)—The brother assistant secretary of General People's Congress this morning in Ra's al-Unuf had a meeting with Bally Yazkuliyeve, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, which was attended by the secretary of vocational conferences' affairs at the General People's Congress and the brother secretary of the Gulf of Sidra Municipal People's Congress, the bolstering of relations between the General People's Congress of the Great Jamahiriya and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium was discussed. An agreement was reached on exchanging visits and strengthening relations between them.

The brother assistant secretary of the General People's Congress also had a meeting with Brother (Nur al-Din Bushku), the assistant secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Federation. The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of Vocational Conferences' Affairs at the General People's Congress and brother secretary of the Gulf of Sidra Municipal People's Congress.

Bulgarians Depart 6 Mar

LD062053 Tripoli JANA in English 1852 GMT
6 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Zhvko Zhivkov, the member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Central Committee and member of the State Council, [title as received] and the delegation in his company this afternoon left Tripoli after attending the celebrations of the 11th anniversary of the proclamation of people's power and the first Jamahiriya in history.

The member of the Bulgarian Central Committee lauded the historical action carried out by the leader of the revolution demolishing prison and liberating prisoners amidst one of the greatest festivals in the world.

He also praised the application of the system of direct people's democracy through the basic people's congresses and peoples's committees. He expressed pleasure at visiting Great Jamahiriya and inspecting colossal achievements realised on the soil of the great Al-Fatih thanks to the revolution.

He concluded his statement before leaving the international airport of Tripoli by asserting the depth of relations linking the Arab people of Great Jamahiriya to the people of Bulgaria. He said that relations between the two countries are developing continuously for the mutual benefit of the two friendly peoples.

Malian Vice President Comments

LD061411 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] This morning, the brother leader of the revolution received General Amadou Babadiara, vice president of Mali and deputy secretary general of Mali People's Democratic Union, who participated in the festivities of the Libyan Arab people marking the 11th anniversary of the declaration of people's authority and the birth of the first jamahiriya in history.

The vice president of Mali showed he was deeply touched by the historic deed, carried out by brother leader of the revolution, of demolishing the prison and liberating the prisoners. He said: I could not stop myself from crying when I saw the prisoners embracing the leader of the revolution after he demolished the prison walls and liberated them.

The meeting was attended by the ambassador of Mali to the great Jamahiriya.

Malian Affirms Solidarity

LD070913 Tripoli JANA in English 0720 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—General Ahmed Babadiara, the vice president and the assistant secretary general in his company yesterday visited the house of the leader of the revolution and inspected the effects of the aborted American Atlantic barbaric aggression against Great Jamahiriya.

The Malian vice president condemned the aggression and reaffirmed the solidarity of the Malian people with the Libyan Arab people and supporting it against all American imperialist plans.

Algerian Comments, Departs

LD071847 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 7, JAMAHIRYA NEWS AGENCY—Djelloul Melaikah the member of the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front's party and deputy chairman of the National People's Assembly in sisterly Algeria and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli at noon today after taking part in the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the 11th anniversary of the establishing of people's authority and the birth of the first jamahiriyyah in history.

In a statement to JANA, Djelloul Melaikah said: "It gives me, and my accompanying delegation honour to send a sincere salute of struggle for the brotherly Libyan Arab people's accomplishments in all fields. They are truly considered cultural achievements. I had the honour to joining our brothers in Great Jamahiriyyah in celebrating the 11th anniversary of the declaration of the Jamahiriyyah establishment and to attend the General People's Congress and the humane decision taken by the leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi to liberate the prisoners".

Djelloul Melaikah hailed in his statement the meeting he and his accompanying delegation had conducted in Great Jamahiriyyah. He indicated that such meeting had reviewed previous meetings as a whole and assessed the accomplishments achieved.

He added: "We can say that we are marching with firm strides within the context of realising the hopes of our Arab people expressed by both historic leaderships on many occasions. We are very optimistic about the future because we are walking on the road of success to lay firm foundations on the ground of reality".

He said: "I salute jamahiriyyah on the level of attentive organisation and political awareness which is the evidence that the revolution is continuing in its march towards progress. [no closing quotation mark as received]"

130 Foreign Prisoners Freed to Mark Anniversary
LD072136 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 7 Mar (JANA)—A total of 130 prisoners of various nationalities were freed today in affirmation of what was said by the brother leader of the revolution to the General People's Congress on the 11th anniversary of the establishment of people's authority and the birth of the first jamahiriyyah in history. This declaration of the great 1 September Revolution was a cry for freedom and a rebellion against the chains which shackled the people, not only in Libya but also in the Arab world and the whole world.

The ceremony of freeing the foreign prisoners was held at noon today at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. It was attended by the ambassadors and heads of political missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyyah whose countries have citizens in prison in Libya. [passage omitted]

The foreign prisoners who were freed today expressed their thanks and consideration for the historical action that was carried out by the brother leader on 3 March this year, and for his destruction of the prison and the freeing of prisoners who were inside.

Jabir Receives PFLP-GC'S Ahmad Jibril 7 Mar
LD071125 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1045 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Mar (JANA)—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces has received Brother Ahmsd Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command).

Al-Qadhafi Receives Noriega Envoy, Message
LD062141 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received an envoy from Major General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panamanian Armed Forces. The envoy delivered a message to the brother leader from Maj. Gen. Noriega in the presence of Panama's ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyyah.

Bangladesh's Ershad Sends Letter on Relations
LD061532 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT
6 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution this afternoon received the ambassador of the Republic of Bangladesh to Great Jamahiriyyah who delivered to him a handwritten letter from President Hussain Mohamad Ershad, the president of the Republic of Bangladesh, on bilateral relations between the two countries.

Morocco

King Hassan II Makes 27th Anniversary Address
LD031757 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1238 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Speech by King Hassan II from the Royal Palace in Marrakesh on the 27th anniversary of his accession to the throne—live]

[Excerpts] Praise be to God, and prayers and peace be upon our Lord, God's prophet, his family, and companions.

Dear people: It is a blessing from God that He has chosen for us a day to be distinguished from among all others, a day that is significant and the most meaningful to us all. [passage omitted] Dear people, on our accession to the throne of our honorable ancestors, God guided us in laying down and defining the objectives of action we wanted to take. We wanted these objectives to be agreed upon and simple. When confronted with conflicts, we have tried to present solutions likely to preserve the safety of our social fabric and territorial integrity. We wanted everybody to have the maximum opportunities for achieving happiness. Morocco has confronted with valor and courage the various conspiracies threatening its social fabric and territorial integrity. Thanks to God's help and support, and to the faith in the hearts of its people, Morocco has always been able to triumph over all the forces of evil. Thus, we have vanquished the various and innumerable obstacles in our way one after the other.

Dear people, there is in Morocco today a basic structure that calls for pride. Our economy, in which the private and public sectors coexist, is among other things characterized by variety and flexibility. The quality of our products has improved over the years; they have become more competitive. Morocco, once only an importer, is now an active exporter in several sectors.

The time came for giving the development process a quicker pace by ensuring a variety and multiplicity of initiatives. As far as Morocco is concerned, it re-evaluates its resources in general, and its human resources in particular. Not a day passes without our country calmly reaffirming its choice of a liberal economy and society. Dear people, putting this choice in its geographical context, Morocco appears to us to be capable of directly entering into the EEC, an open system based on competition. However, Europe itself is passing through a phase of change, associated with 1992 and what is conventionally termed the single action or the single market. Given the conviction that Morocco's economy and men can control their own development, they are bracing themselves for a harmonious integration into this enlarged community.

We are now persuaded, dear people, that a liberal economy is the best choice for mobilizing creative energy. Through such a liberal economy individual and collective initiatives appear and multiply. Investments and the improvement of the quality of life are just a reflection of such initiatives.

The state is engaged in changing its practices and behavior, with this new dynamic situation in mind. The state used to have the role of remedying and patronizing. Its role now is to go along with the liberal economy and to ensure a good climate for it. The state has begun to introduce reforms touching on all fields, seeking to ensure that change occurs wisely and skillfully. God willing, the coming years will see more of this change.

Our administration, since independence, has assumed a fundamental role in the economic and social development of our homeland. Due to the competence and loyalty of its cadres, the administration needs to develop so that it will act in harmony with the new investment requirements. The administrative organs, whether at central or local levels, will have to submit to the operation of simplification and flexibility. They must become more flexible so the end result will be to provide an adequate climate for free enterprise.

Dear people, a liberal society is completely different from chaotic societies. A liberal society is a society of law. This means that every one in it, including the administration, has rights and also duties. It is a society of dignified, independent, and responsible citizens. [passage omitted]

Morocco is rich in resources and people. It is the land of dialogue, tolerance, and free enterprise. Together these elements make our country a country of good opportunities. The coming years will record an enthusiastic takeoff toward investments in all areas. The spread of modern technology will rapidly permit the doubling of production. Agriculture, export-oriented industry, tourism, fishing, and basic structures have showed potential and possibilities for development. These will be fertile fields for the prosperity of national and international investments. [passage omitted]

Dear people, the occasion of our national day enables us to address our most sincere feelings and emotions to our Royal Armed Forces, the forces of the gendarmerie and security, and the auxiliary forces stationed in our Western Sahara. Our feelings and our emotions go out to these forces, taking to them on this blessed and happy day expressions of our satisfaction at their assumption of their sacred duty. We are confident of their seriousness, action, energy, and determination and their steadfastness in defending the national territory. While evoking their heroism with these terms of our appreciation, we express to them on your behalf, dear people, the love and affection you harbor in your heart for them, your deep appreciation, your deep admiration, sincere regards, and continuous and great respect for them.

Our forces have proved with their sacrifices, their rare and great courage, and their famed bravery that they put Morocco's sanctity, territorial integrity, and civilizational and spiritual values in the highest place of veneration. They are continuously loyal to these sanctities and values and are prepared at every instant to meet martyrdom to protect and defend them, to repulse any aggression threatening them. Such self-sacrifice is a supreme act of generosity.

The enemies of our country have several times tried to curb our forces, blunt their sharpness, and infiltrate into national territory. However, each time our forces foiled the aggression with their well-known courage and valor. After a disgraceful defeat, the aggressors retreated. Our

forces stationed in our Sahara are vigilant, always watching; they are assuming, in a way that satisfies us, the tasks we charge them with. These forces deserve deep praise. [passage omitted]

King Receives Greetings from USSR's Gromyko
LD041451 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, sent a letter to His Majesty King Hassan saying: I am happy to express to Your Majesty warm greetings and sincere wishes of good health and happiness for yourself, and for the progress and prosperity of the friendly Moroccan people. On this happy occasion, I would like to convey my hope to Your Majesty for the continuation of the friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries, to the benefit of our two peoples and of international peace and security.

Portugal's President Attends Anniversary Fete
LD071345 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Safi, March 7 (MAP)—Portuguese President Mario Soares currently on a private visit to Morocco during which he has attended the official ceremonies held in commemoration of the throne day and the 27th anniversary of King Hassan II's enthronement, arrived here on a visit to the city before heading to Casablanca, El Jadida and Azemmour.

Soares who was accompanied by Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui visited Portuguese monuments such as "Ksar el Bahr," the church, the garrison, and fortifications. Soares said on the occasion that he would entrust a Portuguese institution specializing in the restoration of these monuments as part of efforts geared to foster further cooperation between the two friendly countries in the area of cultural affaires.

Commerce Minister El-Azmani Departs for Libya
LD072000 Rabat MAP in English 1219 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Rabat, March 7, (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdallah el-Azmani left here Saturday afternoon for Libya to attend the Tripoli International Fair. El-Azmani, leading a delegation comprising representatives from the commerce and industry sectors, told the press upon departure he is to hold talks with Libyan officials on trade issues between the two countries as well as on projects to be jointly carried out.

He also said he will hold meetings with officials from public enterprises in charge of import and export activities and will look with them into the creation of a joint venture for storage and maintenance in Libya. The visit, he added will enable Moroccan and Libyan officials explore and identify areas of investment promotion in the two countries.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Rejects Foreign Military Presence
LD051340 Kuwait KUNA in English 0948 GMT
5 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, March 5 (KUNA)—Sudan's Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said Saturday that his country will not be party to the Libyan-Chadian conflict and will not tolerate any excesses in that connection. Al-Mahdi was quoted by the Cairo-based Radio Voice of the Nile Valley, sponsored by the Egyptian Government, as giving this statement in response to reports that Libyan forces have entered Sudan's northern borders to mount a fresh assault on Chad.

Sudan will not accept or allow foreign military presence in the country or be party to any conflict, the radio quoted the Sudanese premier as saying. The reports said a Libyan contingent of about 2,000 soldiers entered the Sudan from its Libyan borders enroute to northern Chad to mount a new attack on the forces of President Hissein Habre.

Al-Mirghani, Libyan Envoy View Ties, Darfur
JN071717 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Mar (SUNA)—State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani today received Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood [as heard] Bureau. Al-Fazzani said that talks during the meeting dealt with the arrangements of Al-Mirghani's forthcoming visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah. He added that this visit is within the framework of Al-Mirghani's role to strengthen Sudanese-Libyan relations, support the popular revolution in the occupied territories, enhance the Arab nation's resources, and expand cooperation among Arab countries.

In a statement following the meeting, Al-Fazzani said the talks also dealt with issues connected to Sudanese-Libyan relations and issues of mutual concern. He said Al-Mirghani has asked him to convey his greetings to Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi.

Al-Fazzani also said the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah has nothing to do with the conflict in the Darfur Region. He said this conflict is an intra-Chadian [as received] conflict. He said there are 63,000 Chadian refugees on Sudanese territory according to UN statistics. Speaking about the situation in Darfur, Al-Fazzani said France has no right to threaten interference. He stressed Libya will oppose any foreign intervention with revolutionary force.

Spokesman Nur al-Da'im Addresses Media 7 Mar

No Plans to Dissolve Government
JN071513 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 7 Mar (SUNA)—Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, minister of agriculture, acting minister of culture and information, and official government

spokesman, has denied that the prime minister is planning to relieve the ministers and dissolve the government. He said this during a statement to the Constituent Assembly. In a statement to the press here today, he added that the two coalition parties, the Al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party, have not yet completed their negotiations or decided on a course of action in the next stage. [passage omitted]

Views Darfur Situation

JN071557 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Mar (SUNA)—Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, minister of agriculture and acting minister of culture and information, has affirmed that looting at gunpoint in Darfur is decreasing as a result of the intensive operations carried out by the Armed Forces with the help of the police force. In a statement to the press today, he said he visited Darfur 1 month ago and inspected the border areas with Chad, Libya, and Central Africa. During this visit he acquainted himself with the government's measures and the complete plan drawn up by the command of the 6th Division in the Darfur Region. He added these measures and the plan, aimed at containing the consequences of the inter-Chadian and the Chadian-Libyan war, have improved the security situation there. He noted the Armed Forces have been given full powers to confront any foreign presence there.

In his statement, the minister affirmed that Sudan, along with friendly countries and the OAU, are trying to contain the results of the inter-Chadian and the Chadian-Libyan war. He expressed hope for the success of these efforts in the near future. He pointed out that while some elements are trying to create trouble in the region, the government affirms that the situation is improving every day in several areas of the region as a result of some measures.

The minister said that taking to the streets to condemn the security situation, as some sides want, is forbidden by a decision from the Council of Ministers. This is because such marches will allow some elements to generate unrest in Khartoum. He welcomed the recent meeting between the prime minister and the Islamic opposition because, he said, such meetings will enhance democracy. He added that talk about the national trend has been continuing since the defunct regime was deposed. He pointed out that the overwhelming majority of the national forces support the national trend in the country and that the issue of the formation of a national government will be decided by the political parties if they deem it necessary.

SPLA Denounces 'White Lies' on Nile Steamers

EA072002 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of [the] SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command and zonal commander of Northern Upper Nile, in an interview with the Radio SPLA correspondent in his zonal headquarters had described as white lies Khartoum Government's claims that their fleet of steamers which left Kosti for Malakal and fell in SPLA ambushes were 9 steamers and 40 barges. He revealed that 12 steamers and far less barges left Kosti and few arrived in Malakal. Commander Lam Akol went on to say that even if the figure of 9 steamers were to be accepted there is no way they can carry 40 barges. [passage omitted]

He said that the enemy removed the nameplates of the steamers before taking off from Renk to avoid identification, but the POW's captured in the fight revealed that one of the steamers destroyed is "Meroe." [passage omitted]

He also dismissed as a lie Khartoum's claim that its troops captured a lot of guns and rifles from the SPLA. How could they capture these weapons from the SPLA when they were not even able to observe our fire, he asked. On the death toll sustained by the enemy troops, Commander Lam Akol put the number at more than 400 regular soldiers and 20 militiamen killed, several others wounded and 2 were taken prisoner.

'Aziz Addresses Message to Perez de Cuellar
JN052124 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 5 Mar 88

["Text" of message from Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, dated 5 March—read by announcer]

[Text] I have the honor to point to the feverish efforts being exerted by officials of the aggressive, expansionist Iranian regime to deceive the United Nations and world public opinion regarding the true stand on the attacks against purely civilian centers. These attempts include the Iranian messages dated 28 and 29 February and 1 March 1988—Document Nos 19549 IS, 19550 IS, and 19562 IS. Such behavior by the Iranian regime is not new and should be tackled with the utmost decisiveness. In this regard, I would like to begin by reminding you of a number of facts:

1. The Iranian aggression against Iraq for all practical purposes began on 4 September 1980 by attacking citizens and shelling cities and villages with artillery and bombing them with aircraft. The Iraqi border towns and villages were not shelled by Iranian artillery from 1980 to 1982 because they were far out of the Iranian artillery's range after the latter had been moved back several kilometers. However, these areas were bombed by aircraft. After Iraqi forces withdrew from Iranian territory in June 1982 and after Iranian forces massed on the borders, organized and continued shelling of all Iraqi towns and villages lying within the range of Iranian artillery began.

2. Iraq was the first party to call for concluding a special agreement between the two countries to avoid striking at civilian targets. In his message addressed to the Iranian people on 7 June 1983, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn proposed the conclusion of a special agreement to the effect that both parties should avoid striking at cities and villages and subject such an agreement to the supervision of an international body to be agreed upon—Document No 16825 IS. Iran rejected this proposal.

3. When the Security Council issued Resolution No 540/1983 on 31 October 1983, it called for immediate halt to all military operations directed against civilian targets, including cities and residential areas. Iran rejected this resolution as well.

4. Consultations were held at the Security Council in 1983 on issuing a resolution by the Council's president—Document No 18884 IS—regarding the report of the UN secretary general's mission, which inspected civilian areas in Iran and Iraq that had been subjected to military attacks. The Council failed to issue such a resolution due to Iran's reneging on accepting a formula that had been

attained during the consultations. As is known, the report confirmed the Iranian regime's lies as it denied its organized, continued shelling of all Iraqi cities and villages.

5. In 1984, as it is known, the two sides pledged to stop all premeditated military operations, regardless of their means, against strictly residential areas, as of 12 June. Despite this, the Iranian regime has continued to attack cities, villages, and strictly residential areas. Iraq has proved these violations to the United Nations through Document Nos 16624 IS, 16630 IS, 16638 IS, 16649 IS, 16973 IS, 16750 IS, 16329 IS, and 16348 IS in March 1985.

While the UN Security Council was discussing the POW tragedy in accordance with the report prepared by the UN secretary general's team, the Iranian regime issued an unjustified warning of shelling against the city of Basra. It premeditatedly carried out its threat on 5 March 1985 on the pretext that its crime was a reply to an Iraqi attack on the city of Ahvaz on the previous day. The fact is that the Iraqi attack on that day was carried out against a factory in the suburbs of this Iranian city. This target is not included in the aforementioned 12 June agreement.

It is worth mentioning that the Iranian regime did not implement this agreement to prove its claims. It also did not guarantee the security of the UN team to inspect the city of Basra after the premeditated Iranian shelling. This constitutes a flagrant violation of the agreement. This action was aimed at diverting attention from the UN Security Council's debate on the POW tragedy and at paving the way for a large-scale Iranian invasion, which was carried out on 12 March 1985 through Hawr al-Hawizah.

Although the UN Security Council intervened through its statement dated 15 March 1985, which proposed an optional moratorium on attacks on strictly residential areas, with the objective of achieving a peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the UN Charter, Document 17526 IS, and despite Iraq's positive reply, Document 17037 IS, the Iranian regime did not show any positive response, Document 17529 IS.

6. The Iranian regime has continued without interruption its shelling of strictly residential areas in Iraq since then. Moreover, while using artillery, aircraft, and surface-to-surface missiles in its shelling, the Iranian regime escalates the cities war and its shelling of densely populated areas whenever it sustains military defeats and heavy losses as a result of its continuous attempts to invade Iraq, with the objective of reshuffling the cards, diverting attention from its aggressive acts, and avoiding the pressure of the international community, which is aimed at ending the aggression and achieving peace. Iraq has warned against this deceptive Iranian behavior on

many occasions and stressed the need to realize the facts and work resolutely and accurately to put an end to the Iranian regime's practices, Document Nos 17904 IS, 18188 IS, and 18283 IS.

7. Iraq continued to inform you regularly of the Iranian attacks on purely civilian centers in Iraq. So that the international community will have the complete picture of the Iranian crimes against Iraqi cities and populated civilian centers, I would like to cite the following statistics:

—Iraqi notifications to the United Nations on Iranian attacks on purely civilian centers totaled 198 for the years 1983-88. Most of the said notifications recorded more than one attack.

—The number of messages which I addressed to you on my own behalf on such attacks during the aforementioned period totaled 16.

—Since 1985 the Iranian regime has fired 3 missiles at Kirkuk and 45 missiles at Baghdad. Many of these cases were notified.

—From the beginning of the war and until June 1986, air and artillery attacks on purely civilian centers totaled 1,024, resulting in the deaths of 850, the wounding of 3,217, and great material losses, including the destruction of 596 houses. The number of unexploded missiles and bombs in these attacks totaled 8,834. The attacks affected all Iraqi governorates.

—Since the adoption of the Security Council's binding Resolution 598/1987 on 20 July 1987 and until 29 December 1987, Iranian attacks on purely residential areas totaled 304. From the beginning of 1988 and until 1 March 1988 there were 44 attacks.

8. Iraq does not attack purely civilian areas in Iran, but directs its strikes at military and economic installations—and these are permissible targets in armed conflicts in order to diminish the enemy's ability to continue the war. As for the Iranian regime, while it is continuing the war contrary to the UN Charter and the Security Council's binding Resolution 598/1987, it does not hesitate to underline and increase such violations by committing crimes against Iraq's civilian population, resorting to false and exposed pretexts that such violations are retaliatory attacks on economic and military targets.

On many occasions in the past Iraq exercised the maximum self-restraint in not retaliating against Iranian crimes in the hope that the Iranian regime will submit to the logic of peace. In this regard I remind you of the numerous messages we addressed to you last year. In these messages we emphasized this fact, to enable the international community to successfully achieve a peaceful, comprehensive, just, honorable, and lasting settlement to the conflict, approved by the Security Council.

On 12 October 1987 I informed you of the Iranian regime committing an abominable crime against the civilian population in Iraq for the third time in a week, by firing a surface-to-surface missile on Baghdad—Document 19205 IS. The missile fell on the Bilal al-Shuhada' school and the nearby houses which were allocated to teachers, killing 33, including 29 children and 2 women, and the wounding of 318 citizens, including 196 children and 11 women.

9. On 9 November 1987 I informed you—through Document 19258 IS—of a similar crime, when the Iranian regime fired a missile on Baghdad on the same day on which the Arab summit was held in Amman, thus defying not only Iraq but all the Arab states, which met to emphasize the need for peace. The crime resulted in the death of 6 children and 4 women, and the wounding of 106 civilians, including 41 women and 48 children, and also resulted in the destruction of 10 houses, damage to 20 others, and the destruction or damaging of 8 civilian vehicles and several stores.

The total number of missiles fired at Baghdad from the date the Security Council adopted Resolution 598 and until this letter was written is 18. However, such an Iraqi policy was not useful with the Iranian regime, which has a strong propensity for aggression and expansion and no course other than war and destruction.

10. As in the past, the Iranian regime kindled the war of the cities this time. On 27 February 1988 the Iraqi Air Force attacked an oil refinery installation more than 10 km from Tehran. The Iranian regime threatened to shell what it called the economic and military installations of Baghdad and Basra and asked the citizens to evacuate the two cities. An Iraqi military spokesman, in clear and unequivocal language, warned the rulers of Iran that the implementation of such a threat against cities, the civilian population, and purely residential areas will be met with a violent response. Despite that warning, the rulers of Tehran, on the evening of 27 February and throughout 29 February, fired artillery shells and rockets on Basra, Al-Zubayr, Al-Qurnah, Khanaqin, and Badrah, killing or wounding many civilians, including women and children, and destroying civilian property.

The criminal Iranian regime also fired two surface-to-surface missiles at Baghdad on 29 February. The missiles fell on two residential districts, killing a number of civilians, including women and children, wounding others, including women and children, and destroying or damaging a number of houses, shops, and civilian vehicles.

As you see, and as the evidence shows, it is the Iranian regime that has always been the initiator. This time it also was the initiator, and it shelled cities and purely residential areas. It is the Iranian regime that bears the full responsibility for such actions. Iraq has always been compelled to retaliate against the Iranian regime. I informed you of that in our two messages dated 29 February 1988.

That regime is now once again resorting to its traditional behavior of shuffling the cards and diverting the attention of the international community away from its crimes and its rejection of the binding Security Council Resolution 598/1987, in order to avoid the imposition of sanctions on it.

We affirm the right of our people, who are aspiring to freedom, peace, and an honorable life, to retaliate in the face of Iranian crimes in self-defense.

Please accept my respects.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq. 5 March 1988

Air Force Commander on Armitage Remarks
JN041628 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
1 Mar 88 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] Some media have reported that while carrying out their duty in the Arabian Gulf region Iraqi planes have directed their missiles against an Iranian enemy target and that one of these missiles passed near a U.S. warship, as it was claimed. On 16 February Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, expressed concern over this incident. In order to put facts regarding this issue before the public, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH conducted this interview with Iraqi Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban:

Question: We would like the commander to explain to the public exactly what happened.

Answer: First, I would like to point out that Iran itself is responsible for the international navigation crisis in the Arabian Gulf and the presence of foreign fleets in this region. It is the Iranian Government that insists on continuing and prolonging the war. It is also flagrantly attacking international navigation. However, as all sides know, we attack ships carrying oil supplies to and from Iran within the areas and routes known to the world. Moreover, we do not direct our fire at any target before we make sure—through accurate and effective means—that it is the set target and that it is either leaving or going to Iran, and whether it is a merchant or military target.

Although 7 and 1/2 years have passed since the war began and although our Air Force has been actively carrying out its missions, no mistake was made during this long period except for the incident of the frigate "Stark." Even in this incident no proof has been established that it was due to an error by the Iraqi pilot. Despite this, we expressed our regret over this incident at the time.

In return, Iran premeditatedly directs its gunboats' fire and missiles and plants mines against naval targets belonging to states that are not a party to the war. All Arabian Gulf states ships that carry supplies were exposed to such attacks, including the superpowers' ships, the U.S. and Soviet ships. This poses a serious threat to peace and international navigation in the region.

Regarding the incident you asked me about, it was one of our aircraft that fired a missile against and hit an Iranian target. The target and the missile trajectory were far from the U.S. ship. Therefore, everything that was said about a potential danger to the U.S. ship was mere speculation and exaggeration in depicting the incident.

Question: Mr Commander, what about the statement by Richard Armitage regarding the incident and his comments that some of the Iraqi aircraft raids have raised a lot of concern?

Answer: The U.S. assistant secretary of defense admits that there are no problems. Facts have proved this. However, in the statements attributed to him, Mr Armitage viewed the so-called dangerous practices. In my opinion, this is an involvement in a situation that lacks accuracy, because the potential dangers may or may not occur in accordance with the precautionary criteria and their effectiveness, and the technical precision in implementing them. These are perfectly observed in our Air Force's activity. This issue is related to press speculations or some sides' unjustified concerns.

Question: At any rate, some U.S. news media stressed that several incidents took place during the past 2 months, and that these incidents were called "approach incidents"?

Answer: Well, this is another way of admitting that no incident occurred, but in the worst case there was an approach. Let me tell you that any plane flying over the Arabian Gulf is monitored by one of the warships, and even by merchant ships, especially if there is an intensified presence of these ships, as is known. However, this does not mean that we must not exercise our right to cut off Iranian supplies in the defense of our country and the regional peace issue only because some side monitors our aircraft, which come and go without endangering any third party.

The United States realizes more than others the importance of cutting off supplies during war. It practiced this on a large scale during World War II against the Axis powers and Japan and in the Korean and Vietnamese wars. No one can ask Iraq to freeze one of the effective means that forces Iran to accept peace.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad
JN071223 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1213 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1434 [1134 GMT] today, the criminal rulers

of Iran fired one of the missiles obtained from the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation at Baghdad. The missile landed in a residential area, martyring and wounding a number of civilians, including women and children. A number of houses, shops, and civilian cars were damaged. Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 7 March 1988

Strikes, Strategy Summed Up
*JN071430 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT
7 Mar 88*

[Text] Baghdad, March 7, INA—In one week time up to 14:00 hours (11:00 GMT) this afternoon Iraq has launched 41 "Al-Husayn" long-range missiles on the Iranian capital, pounding the city of Qom with three more, a report compiled by Iraqi News Agency INA said here today. Iraqi missile raids, introduced only recently in the 7-1/2 year-old war, have been coupled with skilled Iraqi air runs on Iranian cities, the report mentioned.

The report added that Iraqi warplanes, over a period of one week, mounted raids on enemy camps and gatherings and hit economic and strategic targets in 11 Iranian towns.

Iraqi Air Force and missile force efforts are pooled in a unique manner to place the whole of Iran at the mercy of Iraqi hammers, the report pointed out, adding, as Iraqi political and military sources reiterated, total destruction of Iran's war machine, vital economic enterprises and Iranian cities would continue to be the main target of Iraqi missiles and warplanes.

Iraqi missile force and Air Force, the report said, are unifying efforts to punish the Iranians, who have continued to use long-range artillery and missile launchers fire to hit Iraqi towns and sub-districts, particularly Basra, Al-Qurnah, Al-Zubayr, Badrah and Khanaqin.

The report noted that highly sophisticated warplanes and efficient pilots of the Iraqi Air Force along with the arsenal of "Al-Husayn" long-range locally-manufactured missiles that Iraq possesses would further boost Iraq's resolve to realize its independent will.

During last week's joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and regional command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist party (ABSP), under chairmanship of President Saddam Husayn, it was stressed that Iraq would go on deterring Iranians until they bowed to logic of right.

Communique Details Strikes

*JN071744 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 7 Mar 88*

[Communique No 3,056 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq has shown overwhelming supremacy in the field of strategic bombardment. This supremacy expressed the unlimited capabilities of man in this land when he is provided with a faithful, wise leadership. This display of supremacy has deservedly won the admiration of the whole world and has been received with profound joy by our great people, their Armed Forces, our Arab nation and also by all good people in the world.

There is no doubt that Iraq has been using and will continue to use the strength God has granted to it in defense of right, land, and sovereignty, in order to attain a just peace. Therefore, we will continue with God's help to destroy the dens of the covetous racists who trade with war and its woes and who perpetrate crimes against our citizens in our secure cities. The following missile strikes were launched today:

1. At 0730 [0430 GMT] today, the 34th missile blow with Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to Tehran.
2. At 0900 today, the 35th missile blow with Al-Husayn missiles was also dealt to Tehran.
3. At 1400 today, the 36th missile blow with Al-Husayn missiles was also dealt to Tehran. May God bless the valiant military industries strugglers and men of the heroic Al-Husayn missile force. Praise be to God who supports us against the unjust ones.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 March 1988

Iran Fires Missile at Mosul

*JN071805 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1750 GMT 7 Mar 88*

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1815 [1515 GMT] today, Zionism's agents, the criminal Iranian rulers, fired one of their missiles at the city of Mosul. These missiles were provided to them by the circles hostile to the Arab nation and by those who fish in murky waters. The incident martyred or wounded a number of civilians, including women, elders, and children. It also destroyed and damaged a number of houses, shops, and civilian cars. Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 7 March 1988

Communique No 3,057

*JN071833 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1704 GMT 7 Mar 88*

[Communique No 3,057 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our courageous Armed Forces continue their heroic confrontation of the aggressors' remnants. The results of their activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our bold Air Force planes penetrated deep inside Iran and accomplished the following missions:

a. At 1209 [0909 GMT] today, numbers of our aircraft launched a devastating raid on the city of Arak.

b. At 1335 today, our aircraft launched a devastating raid on the city of Hamadan.

c. At 1730 today, our aircraft launched a devastating raid on the city of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran], pounding their targets.

d. At 1756 today, our aircraft raided Hamadan once again. Blessed be our Air Force—command, hawks, officers, and other ranks.

2. At 0310 today, the enemy sent 14 boats in an attempt to approach the loading platform of Al-'Amiq Port. Our brave naval units and the courageous port force confronted them, destroying five enemy boats, sinking them along with their scoundrels.

3. The helicopter gunship knights carried out 51 combat missions against enemy units, inflicting important losses on the aggressors. The knights returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base, praise be to God.

4. Ten infantry positions, four vehicles, a 107-mm launcher and two 81-mm mortars were destroyed and two scoundrels were killed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

5. One enemy soldier was killed and six various positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. One vehicle was set ablaze, one ammunition dump was blown up, and two machinegun emplacements were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. Three scoundrels were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

8. Four enemy troops were killed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

9. One shovel [preceding word in English] was set ablaze, killing three enemy troops, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

10. At 1434 today, the enemy fired one of the missiles obtained from the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation at Baghdad. The incident martyred and wounded a number of our citizens, including women and children. It also destroyed and damaged several houses, shops, and civilian cars. An enemy plane raided the district of Al-Siddiq in the Irbil Governorate, with the residential areas as its target. A number of civilians were martyred and wounded, including women and children.

The vile Khomeyniites shelled with long-range artillery residential areas in the cities of Basra, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Al-'Amarah, Al-Qurnah, Khanaqin, Qal'at Salih, Badrah, and the village of Qazaniyah. The shelling martyred and wounded a number of our citizens, including women and children, and destroyed and damaged several houses, shops, and civilian cars. Paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 March 1988

37th Missile Strike Reported

*JN072227 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
2157 GMT 7 Mar 88*

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0040 [2140 GMT on 7 March], the 37th strike was dealt against the city of Tehran with Al-Husayn missiles. This is Iraq and such is its strength. It is the Iraq of great leader Saddam Husayn. It is also the homeland which suffers no harm and does not tolerate injustice. It is also the homeland which, thanks to the determination of its men, is capable of pounding the dens of the bats of the night.

The despotic clique ruling Iran acts in accordance with the instructions of Zionism. This clique must become aware of how small it is when faced by this loftiness. It must also realize that its strikes against purely residential areas and its igniting of the war of the cities, despite our repeated warnings, have been grave mistakes for which it is now paying a prohibitive price.

With its patience and incessant warnings, Iraq has given an appropriate opportunity in which the misguided clique may retract its tyranny. But since it insisted on pursuing its foolhardy adventure, let it glean the results of its criminal actions. It is God who grants us success and it is He who assists us.

[Dated] 7 March 1988

Missile Hits Baghdad

JN080634 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0622 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Statement by an military spokesman dated 8 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0003 [2103 GMT] last night, the criminal Iranian rulers fired one of their missiles, which were supplied to them by circles hostile to the Arab nation, at the city of Baghdad. The missile fell on a residential area. A number of civilians, including women, the elderly, and children, were martyred or wounded in the incident. Several houses, shops, and civilian cars were damaged and others destroyed. Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 8 March 1988

Aircraft Hit 'Maritime Target'

JN081313 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1258 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 8 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In confirmation of the capability of great Iraq and in implementation of our people's will regarding cutting off the criminal enemy's oil supplies, at 0953 [0653 GMT] today, our heroic Air Force launched a successful raid on a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate, effective hit. Afterwards, all of our aircraft returned safely to base, God be praised.

[Dated] 8 March 1988

Mosul Targeted 8 Mar

JN081354 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1335 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 8 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1430 [1130 GMT] today, the vile Khomeinists fired one of their missiles, which were supplied to them by the enemies of the Arab nation, on the city of Mosul. The missile landed on a residential quarter, martyring and wounding a number of our dear citizens, including a number of children, women, and the elderly. The missile attack also demolished and damaged a number of houses, commercial stores, and civilian cars and vehicles.

May God's great mercy be the lot of our righteous martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 8 March 1988

38th Strike Targets Esfahan

JN081418 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1346 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 8 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1528 [1228 GMT] today, the 38th strike using the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt against the city of Esfahan. This high degree of capability is being displayed to confront the aggression and avenge your martyrs, O proud Iraqis, and to deter the aggressors from perpetrating crimes against your cities. This capability is the good result of your efforts and the holy war that has been waged throughout the glorious years of the revolution, behind the banner of your leader who will score victory with the help of God, the great Saddam Husayn.

If the clique ruling in Tehran is not deterred despite our repeated warnings, our long patience, and in spite of the catastrophes that have befallen it, we have many of the things that will make it bite its fingers in regret over every drop of blood shed on the territory of Iraq and in its steadfast cities. The whole world grants us all the legitimacy and right to defend our women, children elderly people, and all of our citizens, and to defend our homes and security. With God's help and under the leader's banner we are more than capable of achieving this.

[Dated] 8 March 1988

Rabin Addresses Knesset on Terrorism, IDF Policy
TA071525 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1405 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Statement delivered by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in the Knesset—live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, honorable Knesset:

In the beginning of my statement on the security forces' treatment of the phenomena of violence and terrorism I must mention the incident which took place this morning. A terrorist squad which was discovered in the Mizpe Ramon area stormed a military vehicle and drove to the area of the Beersheba-Dimona road. There it commandeered a bus. Most of the passengers of the bus were women. The squad's aim was to carry out an attack for bargaining purposes, and probably to drive the bus to a populated area.

The security forces and other elements sealed off the bus' route. The security forces took control of the area, blocked the bus' travel route, and at a certain stage, the special police antiterrorist unit was activated and it stormed the bus.

The three terrorists were killed. Three Israeli citizens—a man and two women—were killed. The man was killed approximately 1 or 2 hours before the storming of the bus and the two women were apparently killed a short time before, or during the storming. The names of the fallen, those murdered, are Rina Schirazky, age 31, mother of two children; Miryam Ben-Ya'ir, age 46, mother of four children; Victor Ran, age 39, a widower and father of three children.

During the negotiations the squad defined itself as a Fatah-Abu Jihad squad whose goal is war against Israel and it was carrying out an attack for the purpose of bargaining. Its victims were women, innocent civilians—not stone throwers and not hurlers of Molotov cocktails; not violent demonstrators, but innocent civilians.

This is the terrorist PLO terrorism in all its vile manifestation. This is the enemy facing us, which is indiscriminate, which chooses every way, every target, just because it is Jewish and Israeli. The only reason they died is because they were Jewish residents of the State of Israel. Our policy has always been to take forceful action against this criminal murderous gang. From this podium I want to send my condolences to the bereaved families, to the children who have lost their mothers and father. I wish good health to the wounded, most of whom are only slightly wounded, except for two who suffered medium wounds.

I want to ask whether the international media will describe this incident just as carefully as it describes the specifics of events in which there is no murder, no killing? Will the Israeli media know how to present in all its nakedness the murderous PLO squad? Will Knesset

Members [MK's], who know exactly what IDF soldiers are entitled to do, raise their voices against those who make daily media appearances and order these attacks; those who send, aid, and recruit youths and older men to carry out these murderous attacks. These are the faces of our real enemies. This is their level and their methods.

In the framework of the country's struggle against the recent violence and terror we should distinguish between the different planes in which this violence is taking place. At the center of the violence is the violence of the inhabitants of the areas of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, and the terrorist acts they commit.

In addition, we are witnessing the efforts of the PLO-backed terrorist organizations, headed by 'Arafat's organization, to increase terrorist activity from Lebanon against targets inside Israel. These efforts are in addition to the activity of the Shi'ite organizations, Hizballah and Amal, and other Lebanese and Palestinian elements against the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and IDF forces in the security zone. We witnessed this morning an attempt to carry out an attack for bargaining purposes. We have witnessed acts of violence and terrorism in the areas of Israel, Jerusalem, and the other areas under the sovereignty of Israel.

Let me start with the acts of violence in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. The characteristics of the activity there are not the same as the characteristics of the classical terrorist organizations' operations. Their aim is to stir up a civilian confrontation with IDF soldiers, border policemen, and members of other security forces. The purpose of the violent activity is political. It seeks to attain what the Arab countries failed to achieve with wars with the state of Israel, and what they failed to achieve with their policy. The aim of the violence is to achieve what the PLO terrorist organizations have not achieved through their abominable and ongoing terrorist attacks. Their aim is to make Israel give up its political goals as stipulated by the elected government.

Israel has two alternatives. The first is a theoretical choice of giving in to terrorism, to capitulate, give in. But any attempt to even entertain such a thought would have only reinforced the intentions of those perpetrating terrorism and war, and would have increased violence in all its forms and exacerbated terrorism and the danger of war, and would certainly have prevented the chance to make progress toward peace. Therefore, it is inconceivable to think anything but that the government would adopt a resolution to react forcefully to violence and under no circumstances submit to the political goals of this violence. Therefore the Israeli Government has decided to employ the IDF, the police forces, and the other security branches to bring about calm.

We have always known and still know that a political solution can only be achieved through political ways. The peace process must be dealt with through political ways, on the basis of the government resolution. At the

same time, and without any connection with this, it is necessary to use the IDF, the police, and the other security branches within the framework of the law, in accordance with the norms and the values of the IDF and the state of Israel, against violence.

In the framework of our policy we have determined the following order of priorities for the IDF and the other security forces: The first goal is to curtail violence in all its forms. The second goal is to keep the main transportation axes in Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza open and unblocked for the movement of the IDF, as well as Jewish and Arab residents who want to use these roads in the territories safely. The third goal is to preserve the governing framework to serve the Arab population. The fourth objective is to make it possible for the economic system to operate—for those who want to leave for work in Israel, for those who want to maintain economic activity in the territories, and for those who want trade to continue. Our order of priorities is just as I outlined.

Today the means by which the IDF and the other forces achieve these goals is by taking action against any show of violence, whether it is a minor or large demonstration, a roadblock, stone throwing, or Molotov cocktail incidents. This action may take the form of the use of tear-gas grenades, rubber bullets, and if these means are not sufficient to cause the rioters to disperse, then to storm them by force. This includes the use of clubs to hit those who carry out a violent attack, whether during the attack itself or during the pursuit of the perpetrators. From the moment that the assailants surrender completely, without any trickery, they are handed over to the authorities handling the investigation and the law.

I want to say from this podium that it is true that there have been exceptional cases. I believe, however, that since the establishment of Israel, IDF soldiers have never faced such a mission, such a test of seeing from close up the burning hatred of those who stage riots. Hatred just because they are Israelis, just because they are IDF soldiers. They are spat at, cursed, stoned, and knifed, and at the same time are required to carry out the instructions as I described them. Believe me. I have spoken with many of the IDF officers and soldiers—it is much easier to open fire from a distance of 30-50 meters at a person who is stoning you and who is violently demonstrating against you than it is to make physical contact with him in order to disperse or to detain him. It is much easier to shoot than to beat up, but we have our own law and methods, and we will honor them.

I can sympathize with young soldiers and reservists who have to withstand this violence and provocation for weeks on end. This perhaps sometimes causes them to lose control, but I cannot accept this considering the norms which the IDF soldiers have to maintain. Even if there were exceptional cases, they were the exception to the rule. Out of the many thousands of soldiers there were only dozens of exceptional cases.

I do not think that many armies in the world could have behaved like the IDF, both in its efficiency and in maintaining its values with regard to the difficult mission which has been imposed on it for the first time in its history by the state, the government, and the defense minister. The IDF does not determine the policies, it merely executes the government's policy with the aim of achieving its goals under the restrictions imposed on it.

Regarding the media, I will not quote verbatim here, for the benefit of several MK's, the comments made by the Soviet Government's spokesman on why the international media are not to be permitted to enter the capital of Armenia. He said that the very presence of the media encourages rioting, and there is a lot of truth in this.

At the same time, however, Israel is not the Soviet Union. We are not a totalitarian regime which prevents freedom of expression and freedom of emigration. In Israel these things are permitted. Therefore, according to the law, whenever it is necessary an officer can close off a certain area to allow the army to carry out its mission by declaring the area a closed zone. The officers in the various sectors can do this as the need arises, whether on the basis of information regarding the possibility of a violent act or upon its beginning.

This is how we acted last weekend and this is how we will act at present and in the future. Not a total closure of the territories, but rather their closure to prevent the appearance of the media in areas where there is activity or where our information indicates the likelihood of activity—to designate this area as a closed military zone for all those who do not live there and those whose presence there is not required for the activity of the IDF and the other security forces.

What is the situation at present? I would say that over the last 2 weeks—except for a few occasions—there have been no large demonstrations, no violent and ongoing demonstrations in the large population centers. At the same time, however, there are occasional outbreaks of violent demonstrations and disturbances. There are occasional stone throwing incidents, roadblocks are erected, PLO flags hoisted, and Molotov cocktails thrown.

In most of the cases the security forces are prepared to nip these incidents in the bud, except for cases—as we have witnessed over the last 2 weeks—which occur in far away villages, not in the large villages. Let me recall that in Judeaea and Samaria there are 450 villages and another 50 large towns, altogether 500 large population centers in which some 750,000-800,000 people live.

Most of the violence over the last 10 days has started out as conflicts within the Arab population itself, as acts against inhabitants suspected of forming part of the governing establishment operating in connection with Israel in Judeaea and Samaria. This phenomenon is much more limited in Gaza. We are also witnessing signs of

economic fatigue among most of the population. I cannot say this is true regarding the active elements who are trying to terrorize the entire population.

Extremist religious organizations, in addition to the terror organizations, have realized this and they are now mainly calling upon the population to concentrate on large-scale disturbances on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in order to leave 4 days for work and for solving the economic problems of part of the population. I am convinced that even if it takes time, the security forces—on the basis of government policy—will bring about calm. They will ensure that violence will not attain its goals and objectives with regard to the Israeli positions—and the positions of everyone in the government according to his own taste—if and when political negotiations begin.

In light of events in the territories, and in order for the PLO terrorist organizations to prove that their 22-year-old policy of terror, or what they call the armed struggle, as the main method is not obsolete, they are making supreme efforts to increase terrorism from Lebanon. As will be recalled, we have been unable to uproot terrorism from Lebanon.

The National Unity Government has decided on a new policy—different from that which existed up to January 1985—of dealing with terrorism. This policy realizes that terrorism from Lebanon is continuing and is bound to continue. Since 20 February of this year five PLO terrorist squads, most of them from the 'Arafat faction of the PLO, have tried to penetrate Israeli territory. They were all exterminated or driven away.

Only 2 days ago an IDF force clashed with a four-member squad in the security zone. Three of them were shot and killed and one has apparently escaped. To judge by the maps we found in their possession it is quite possible that their goal was similar to what the squad attempted to achieve this morning in the south, to take over a vehicle or a bus, because the maps covered all the territory to Jerusalem.

The PLO-backed terrorist organizations, primarily those affiliated with 'Arafat, have decided to increase their murderous terrorist acts from every direction. There were three incidents of Katyusha attacks over the last 1 and 1/2 months. These 122-mm Katyushas were also fired by Palestinians, and the intention was to hit Israeli targets. There is no doubt that the terrorist organizations and extremist elements in the Arab population are interested in this combination of violence by the inhabitants of the territories and the terrorism perpetrated by them inside and outside the territories. They want to create a reality that would dictate their conditions.

As everyone knows, they object to any peace process that is not dictated by them. They oppose the U.S. initiative, therefore they want to increase their activity precisely at this point. They want to increase their violent and

terrorist activity to subvert the normal flow of life here and to use the media and additional elements to create a distorted picture of the IDF and Israel's policy. They want to dictate their conditions. If it were up to them violence would not have stopped at the Green Line.

The third area I will address involves more incidents of violence inside the Green Line, and also incidents of stone throwing and Molotov cocktails, possibly by Arab Israelis. I believe that most of the Israeli Arabs are loyal to the State of Israel, as they have been for 40 years. They and we, together, should condemn all forms of violence and law breaking which is being carried out by a few individuals among them. I am convinced we can continue to live together, just as the Israeli Arabs and Jews have always lived.

To summarize, over the past 3 months we have witnessed a phenomenon of violence staged by the inhabitants of the territories the likes of which we have not experienced over the past 40 years. It poses problems of how to deal with it for the IDF and the other security forces. I am convinced that we will overcome. There are no instant hocus-pocus solutions here, there is no possibility of lightning striking in this case. It has already been proved in other instances that if we become fixated on these formulas it will not necessarily bring the results we want. I believe that the people of Israel, who know how to withstand challenges and struggles, some of them prolonged, know what they are striving for, and therefore will overcome.

Finally, I want to express deep appreciation to all the security forces, the IDF, the police, the border police, and the other security forces. Today I want to express my special appreciation to the Israeli police antiterrorist unit which stormed the bus this morning and saved the hostages, killing the murderous terrorist hijackers. I want to express my hope that at this late stage—better late than never—the Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza will reach the conclusion that continuing this will only destroy them. They will never be able to destroy us.

Knesset Endorses Statement

TA080539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The Knesset last night endorsed the statement on the situation in the territories made by Defense Minister Rabin on behalf of the government. The vote was carried by the majority representing the government coalition. Opposition motions to reject Rabin's statement were defeated. The debate on the government policy statement lasted 5 hours.

Further Reportage on 'Terrorist' Bus Hijacking

Force 17 Claims Responsibility

TA071412 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] An unidentified person has called the AFP office in Jerusalem and said that the Fatah's Force-17 was responsible for the attack. This is reported by our monitor. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a

adds that Force-17 belongs to the Fatah Organization and is headed by Abu Tayyib, formerly head of 'Arafat's personal guard. He does not heed the orders of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], head of the PLO's operational branch.

Egyptian 'Notes' Found

TA071725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] The question of whether the terrorists [who attacked in the south] came from Egypt featured prominently in the Knesset debate this evening.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disclosed that the belongings of the three terrorists who carried out the attack at 'Aro'er Junction included Egyptian notes and cigarettes. Yet this cannot prove with any certainty that they had indeed come from Egypt. The defense minister thus replied to a query presented by Likud Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan, who wished to know what was Egypt's role in this morning's attack. MK Eytan and Tehiya MK Ge'ula Kohen demanded that the foreign minister protest to Egypt the fact that it allowed terrorists to penetrate Israeli territory from its border.

MK Refa'el Eytan of Tzomet said that the peace agreement with Egypt has been violated time and time again when means of warfare were introduced into the Gaza Strip from Egypt. Today terrorists even managed to enter Israel from its territory and strike at the heart of the country. The above was reported by our correspondent Amnon Nadav.

Shamir on Political Impact

TA081157 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that yesterday's terrorist attack forms part of the general scene in our region. Such events underline the need to promote the peace process. Mr Shamir was speaking during a tour of the Bedouin town of Rahat. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch interviewed him:

[Begin recording] [Yehimovitch] Mr Prime Minister, what effect will yesterday's terrorist attack have on the peace talks and on Shultz' visits to the Middle East?

[Shamir] No effect. It merely serves to underscore the need to seriously tackle the problems related to the conflict.

[Yehimovitch] What political conclusions did you personally reach from what happened yesterday?

[Shamir] Yesterday's event is bloodcurdling, but to my deep regret it is not a new phenomenon. This is part of the general scene and the way of life here. Naturally, it also underlines the need to speed up the peace process, as much as this is possible.

[Yehimovitch] Does Israel intend to lodge an official protest with Egypt over the fact that the terrorists set out from its territory?

[Shamir] There is still room to check whether they indeed came from Egypt. Egypt, too, must review this case and determine how this could have happened. In any event, this is a subject for deliberations and talks.

[Yehimovitch] Over the past few days, several people have expressed the view that we must conduct a dialogue with the PLO or with certain PLO members. Does yesterday's attack support certain elements in this context?

[Shamir] It proves beyond a doubt the PLO is no partner to a dialogue and that it must be removed and annihilated. [end recording]

Shamir Blames Arab Countries

TA081340 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT
8 Mar 88

[Text] All the Arab countries should hold themselves responsible for the Beersheba attack. The above was stated today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the course of a tour of Bedouin settlements in the Negev. Our correspondent in the south, Shim'on Elqabetz, heard him:

[Begin Shamir recording] [Words indistinct] (?the murders). It is therefore right that we hold responsible all the countries in the region; the Arab countries from where the murderers came, whose media today broadcast and published words of praise and encouragement for the murderous act. [end recording]

Shomron Comments on Incident

TA071849 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Telephone interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by Dan Shilon and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening Lieutenant General Dan Shomron.

[Shomron] Good evening.

[Shilon] This is not the first time in recent times that we are witnessing terrorist infiltrations from across the Egyptian border. Have you drawn any conclusions from this?

[Shomron] The truth is that during these times, with the events in the territories, there are many attempts by the PLO to participate from outside by terrorist actions. These attempts come from the north, from the sea, and through Egypt and the Sinai. Rescue operations like the one today usually take the heaviest toll on human lives.

We usually succeed in overcoming these actions, but with a price. I would compare it to the activities in the territories where up to now neither soldiers nor Israeli civilians have been killed.

[Shilon] We will deal with the taking over of the bus and the price paid, but with your permission, we would like your reaction to the remarks by a former chief of staff on the operation. Rafal [Tehiyah Knesset Member Rafa'el Eytan] said that if such attacks recur, Israel should consider entering the Sinai in order to prevent a threat to its security. Would you agree with such a situation?

[Shomron] I would not like to refer to Rafal's remarks. We have a peace agreement with Egypt. I believe that the Egyptians are also not pleased with the infiltrations across their border. I do not know to what extent they act, or if it is as much as I would like, but they are making an effort. Nevertheless, the fact is that the prior infiltration was a month ago, and here is another one. On the attack, I would only like to say that it began around 0700, when the first encounter took place. IDF forces throughout the Southern Command, with the aid of the police, very quickly closed off the roads with roadblocks; aircraft hovered over all the axes; and everything was concentrated in the direction of the spot where the event was taking place, the hijacked bus with the terrorists inside. At 1030, or to be accurate, at precisely 1025, the takeover operation was completed.

[Savir] Are you satisfied with the initial lessons learned from this event, from the IDF's operation, and the joint operation with the border police antiterrorist unit?

[Shomron] I am satisfied with most aspects of the operation, although I am very sorry about the loss of lives. Three Israeli civilians were killed.

[Shilon] What are you not satisfied with?

[Shomron] I will first say what I am satisfied with. I am satisfied with the fast operation in pinpointing the site and the concentration of forces. These forces were quite numerous, as they included medical troops and people who know how to communicate with the terrorists. The entire system worked very quickly. Of course, the entire IDF command arrived at the site. Even the defense and police affairs ministers managed to get there in time. The border police antiterrorist unit did a fine job. This is the first time it has been operational. As chief of staff, I was hesitant because we also have a similar IDF unit which is very good and very experienced. The antiterrorist unit arrived quickly and was prepared. We considered the matter together, and I decided that this time we would let them operate, and I am glad to say that they carried out the operation excellently.

[Savir] What are you not satisfied with?

[Shomron] The first contact with the terrorists was by a military vehicle, a Renault driven by several soldiers in sports clothes who were on their way to a sports competition, I think it was a race. According to IDF orders in this area, they are not obligated to carry arms, although any base commander can extend strict orders, and I will clarify this issue. They were the first to encounter the terrorists. The terrorists opened fire after they passed by them. But the soldiers thought they saw something suspicious and returned to make sure nothing suspicious was going on. When they drew closer to check, fire was opened at them, including grenades and gun fire. The soldiers were unarmed and therefore they sped away. This enabled the terrorists to take over the bus. This is the aspect I wish to check. I am certainly not pleased with this, although I cannot say that they disobeyed orders. But the first contact was with the IDF. Had they been armed there would have been a good chance that it would have ended differently.

[Shilon] Had they waited longer and considered their moves better, or had they planned them, could Israeli casualties have been avoided?

[Shomron] During the process of taking over a position, time is crucial. We look for several conditions—which of course I do not want to discuss here in the media—which enable a fast takeover with minimum casualties to the hostages inside, or to the rescuers. When these conditions exist, then it is the time to carry out the operation. We waited, and when the right conditions were created, and to my satisfaction they were created fairly early on—the operation did not last a long time—then the unit went into action immediately, as should be the case.

[Shilon] Will you now order IDF units, and IDF vehicles, to carry weapons even where this was not required in the past?

[Shomron] We will consider the issue. In the past, many years ago, there were quite strict orders. Career army personnel carried arms everywhere. The result was that they sometimes lost their weapons, and there were accidental discharges of weapons. This order was finally restricted to certain areas, such as Military Government areas in Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; and of course areas close to the border. After each incident we, of course, reconsider all orders and adapt them to reality. This issue might also be reconsidered.

[Shilon] Mr Chief of Staff, yesterday and again today, demonstrating Arabs used firearms, perhaps for the first time. They threw a grenade at a border police force. How do you explain that?

[Shomron] First of all, I think it is much harder to explain why this has not happened until now. I do not believe this was the only grenade in the territories. Until now they have tried not to use firearms, and in fact did not use them. Is this a change in direction? I do not

know. You cannot judge according to one incident. We will adapt our activities in all aspects to this possibility as well. We, of course, have taken this into account.

[Shilon] Could the IDF activity be completely different if it becomes clear that the rioters will now use firearms?

[Shomron] I suppose that if firearms are used in a demonstration then certainly, according to orders and rules, this is a different ball game. But I do not think we should draw the conclusion yet that the situation has changed.

[Shilon] Mr Chief of Staff, thank you.

[Shomron] Thank you very much.

Shomron Notes Infiltration Site

TA081228 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT
8 Mar 88

[Text] The terrorist squad that carried out yesterday's operation apparently infiltrated into Israel from Egypt at the same location as the previous squad, captured in the area 1 month ago. This was stated today by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David heard Shomron's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Ben-David] Talking to Herzliyya high school students today, the chief of staff praised the antiterrorist unit's activity in the south yesterday.

[Shomron] We have well-trained IDF units for such incidents, and we also have a border police unit. In previous incidents—the last case was the no. 300 bus—insufficient trust was placed in this border police unit, and it was replaced at the last minute although it had reached the site first. In the present instance, they were the first to arrive. They were well organized, and even when suitable IDF units arrived at the site it seemed to me that no substitutions should be made in the critical seconds when murder could begin inside the bus and which demanded rapid action. This unit is good. One should rely on it and let it operate. We also checked its plans and found them to be sound, so that when the critical moment arrived—and I would not like to elaborate here—and conditions were ripe for beginning the operation, this unit acted immediately and did its job very well.

[Ben-David] It seems that the terrorists infiltrated from Egypt, in the same area crossed by the squad that was captured 1 month ago. At that time, as may be recalled, the terrorists entered between Har Harif and Har Horesha in the Negev. We will not be able to hermetically seal the country's borders, Lt Gen Shomron said.

[Shomron] From their point of view, they may be satisfied with the very fact that they managed to penetrate and harm several civilians, even though some of their own were killed. From our point of view, we must

make it clear to them that we will strike at terrorists beyond our country's borders, as well as along the borders which they try to cross. It is obvious that we will try to keep them out and will try to liquidate them before they arrive. If they manage to cross the border, we will act swiftly inside Israel's borders as well. [end recording]

Mordekhay Remarks on Debriefing

TA071914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] An initial debriefing held for several hours in the Southern Command indicates that the hostages were killed by terrorist fire from inside the bus. The terrorists' exact identity is not known, but it is known that one of them is an inhabitant of the Egyptian side of Rafah. At the end of the debriefing our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe interviewed Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command:

[Begin recording] [Mordekhay] We know that they overpowered a Renault. We know that they broke through a police barricade in the Yeroham area and proceeded in the direction of Dimona and then toward Beersheba. The chain of events, as you saw for yourselves, involved the hurling of a hand grenade at a semitrailer, but it failed to explode. Once that vehicle came to a halt and the driver fled it, the bus also stopped to check what was happening. The semitrailer had stopped to check out what was happening to the Renault. When the bus driver realized that these were probably terrorists and told the women—and most of the passengers on the bus were women—that these were terrorists, most of them managed to get off the bus. Only a few of them remained inside. At that stage, the terrorists ran toward the bus and commandeered it.

The terrorists were found in possession of two Kalashnikov rifles, a Carl Gustaf submachinegun, magazines, and grenades. They took some of the grenades with them, but they left behind six hand grenades in the Renault.

We do not know the terrorists' precise identity, but from documents found on the body of one of the terrorists, he was a resident of the Egyptian side of Rafah. We presume that at some point he somehow entered Israel, and together with the two others who joined him carried out the attack.

I believe they had in mind an attack by which they would have reached a bargaining position. Perhaps they were thinking not only about the bus but more than that, some other project in Beersheba or beyond. Then, when they realized that the roads were blocked and they could not progress, they chose to conduct the dialogue from the scene of the action. First they conversed with the police. Then, when I arrived, this dialogue was conducted by professionals who were with me, and they conversed with us.

Unfortunately, all our attempts to bring about an end to the incident without casualties failed. They presented an ultimatum that within 30 minutes, unless all their demands—including the release of Palestinian detainees and terrorists—were met, they would execute hostages. For a variety of reasons which are not clear to us, at some stage they started firing shots inside the bus, killing one of the hostages. Then they apparently also shot at, or in the direction of, the two women.

Our debriefing shows that our forces never fired either at the women or at the other hostage found on the bus. Nevertheless, our men questioned the women who were on the bus to determine when the shots were fired and at whom they were directed. We will rerun this entire debriefing to make sure, from every angle, that indeed the man and women were shot even before the IDF units broke into the bus.

One of the reasons for our decision to break into the bus quickly stemmed from the fact that the terrorists actually shot people, as they themselves admitted. They said that some people had been hurt by their shots. Under those circumstances it was necessary to take swift and determined action, make a decision and act accordingly. The first unit that was ready was the special border police antiterrorist unit whose commander I remember from when he was my subordinate during his military service. I thought that it would be correct to entrust them with this mission. Indeed, from the moment I ordered action, everything proceeded very quickly, in a highly professional manner, and definitely well.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you have any indication as to when [words indistinct]?

[Mordekhay] No, we do not have a precise estimate, but this is exactly what we are trying to find out. We are trying to determine where they came from, from what direction, how long ago it was since they arrived in Israel, and how long they were on Israeli soil.

[Menashe] Is our southern border with Egypt quiet, or effectively closed?

[Mordekhay] It is quiet. It used to be a peaceful border between two countries that have a peace treaty. Unfortunately, recently there have been repeated attempts to introduce terrorist squads through the Egyptian border, a fact of which we take a sad and serious view. We must comprehend the implications of this and again demand that the Egyptians make great efforts to prevent the departure of terrorist squads from their territory in the direction of our border. [end recording]

Arab Notables Criticize Attack

TA072008 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Arab notables from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip this evening expressed their reservation about today's terror attack in the south. Notables who

preferred to remain anonymous told our correspondent Victor Nahmias that this attack does not serve the Palestinian cause at this point.

Rashad al-Shawwa of Gaza told our correspondent that murdering innocent people should not be the way in which the Palestinians express their opposition to the occupation. He also said that such an attack may harm the achievements the Palestinians have so far made from the uprising.

More on Leaders' Positions on Shultz Document

Levi Urges Decision on Plan

TA071836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] At a Likud ministers meeting this evening, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi demanded that a decision be made right now on the Shultz document and that action be taken to advance the elections. Minister Levi thinks the chances of the prime minister persuading Shultz to change his plan are very slim. On the other hand, there is great danger of a real confrontation with the U.S. Administration. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz added that the Likud ministers' session will continue on Wednesday morning. This will delay the Inner Cabinet debate.

Shamir To Present 'Alternative'

TA080619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The prime minister will take with him to Washington alternative proposals on establishing self-administration in the territories. He will also try to secure a commitment on strategic cooperation with Israel that will be binding on the next administration as well. The advance team which will prepare the prime minister's visit in the United States will leave for Washington today. This team will include, among others, the prime minister's military secretary and media adviser. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami is in the studio:

While in Washington, the prime minister will not settle for saying no to the Shultz initiative and to those details which do not seem right to him. Mr Shamir wants to arrive in Washington equipped with alternative plans. The prime minister's team of aides is currently busy formulating the proposals, particularly about replacing the international opening proposed by the secretary of state with the sponsorship of the two large superpowers, as well as formulating the interim arrangement issue.

Mr Shamir believes that according to the Shultz initiative, negotiations on the permanent settlement may even begin before negotiations on the interim arrangement, and the prime minister wants to prevent this. Therefore, Mr Shamir will return to his proposal that autonomy or self-administration be introduced in stages: beginning in one town in Judaea and Samaria, and, after seeing how

this town passes the test, slowly extending self-administration to the other towns. Mr Shamir will propose that negotiations on the permanent arrangement begin only after self-administration has been extended over all Judea and Samaria and after enough time has been had to examine the success of this system.

The prime minister will raise the issue of the initiative in the Inner Cabinet tomorrow, but he does not intend to put the question of the Israeli Government's stance up for a vote, complying neither with the Labor Party ministers' demand nor with that of Minister Levi.

The prime minister's advisers are also occupied these days with Mr Shamir's demand that strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States be regularized and firmly established. This cooperation was introduced during the Reagan administration's term, and Mr Shamir wants to get the next administration committed to it as well. The prime minister does not see a link between disagreements on the political initiative and strategic cooperation.

The advance team which will prepare Shamir's visit leaves for the United States today. It will include media adviser Avi Pazner, who will try to check out another difficulty expected in the course of the visit: the U.S. media, which is already sharpening its arrows in anticipation of Mr Shamir's arrival in Washington next Monday.

MA'ARIV Interviews Gerasimov on Shultz Plan
TA041701 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
4 Mar 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by 'Oded Granot]

[Text] "No U.S. plan for the Middle East will succeed, nor will any peace be achieved in the region, if an international conference is not convened." The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said this to MA'ARIV yesterday, in an initial Moscow reaction to the U.S. secretary of state's shuttle trips.

In a telephone conversation from his office in Moscow, spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov stressed that "the Soviet Union still has numerous doubts about the chances for success of the Shultz initiative. Still, the spokesman admitted that no reports have yet been received in Moscow about Shultz' moves in the Middle East. According to Gerasimov, no U.S. move can succeed if an international conference is not convened. "This is the only way," he said.

MA'ARIV: Does the Soviet Union fear a "Pax Americana" in the region?

Gerasimov: "It should be a Middle East peace, not an American one."

MA'ARIV: What is the Soviet stance regarding a possible meeting between Shultz and Palestinian representatives?

Gerasimov: "If you are referring to authorized PLO representatives, this is a good time." He later added ironically: "This is interesting. The Americans are prepared to meet with the PLO in the Middle East, but are acting to close down the organization's office in New York."

MA'ARIV: Has a date been set for the Israeli diplomatic mission's visit to the USSR?

Gerasimov: "You are referring to the consular delegation. We do not treat it as a diplomatic delegation. Well, they have to receive visas and buy tickets."

MA'ARIV: And in the meantime?

Gerasimov: "In the meantime we sent you Alla Pugacheva [Soviet singer]. She is with you now, right?"

MA'ARIV: She also intends to appear in a rally protesting the situation in the territories.

Gerasimov: "Is this true? I thought that foreigners are not allowed to participate in demonstrations in Israel."

MA'ARIV: Pop singers can...

Gerasimov: "All right then."

Labor 'Memorandum of Understanding' Sent to PLO
JN071910 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic
6 Mar 88 pp 1, 23

[Text] AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM has obtained the text of a secret memorandum the PLO has received from the Israeli Labor Party headed by Peres containing the Israeli Labor Party's visualization for a settlement of the Palestinian cause and asking for the PLO's approval of this visualization. The following is the text of the memorandum in Arabic as sent by the Israeli Labor Party:

Proposal for a memorandum of understanding between Israel and the PLO. This proposal is submitted to the PLO chairman and the other PLO leaders for study:

1. Israel and the PLO announce reciprocal political recognition between the Israeli and Palestinian people.
2. Israel and the PLO call for the establishment and development of a political and economic alliance between the Israeli and Palestinian people.
3. Israel and the PLO are committed to jointly work for the establishment of full peaceful relations among all the people and countries in the Middle East and between the state of Israel and the Arab and Islamic states.

4. Israel announces its recognition of the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent political framework in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank that will be within a political and economic confederation with Israel and Jordan.

5. The PLO proclaims the Palestinian people's aspiration to establish a Palestinian political confederation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that will be within a political and economic confederation with Israel and Jordan.

6. The Palestinian confederation in the [West] Bank and the [Gaza] Strip will be like a state. These two areas will be demilitarized.

7. Israel decides to transfer sovereignty over the Gaza Strip to the PLO.

8. The PLO proclaims the Gaza Strip an independent Palestinian sovereign area. The PLO decides to transfer the Palestinian national institutions from Tunis to Gaza. Israel agrees to the PLO's becoming a full member in the UN bodies. The PLO announces the formation of a Palestinian government, a Palestinian parliament, a Palestinian authority, and a Palestinian television station.

9. Israel decides that the Arab inhabitants in the West Bank are Palestinian citizens and that they have to hold Palestinian identity cards and passports issued by the Palestinian government in Gaza.

10. The Government of Israel and the PLO decide to establish Palestinian cantons in the West Bank that will be recognized as Palestinian political areas which cannot be separated from the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian central government in Gaza. These cantons will be responsible for running the affairs of the Palestinian in the West Bank. With respect to foreign affairs, these cantons will be linked to the Palestinian government and parliament.

11. The Israeli Government, Palestine, and Jordan proclaim a policy of open borders, economic unity, and of a political alliance, and will initiate negotiations for the establishment of a political and economic confederation among them.

12. Within the framework of these negotiations, contentious issues in the West Bank will be discussed, as well as the status of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and how they should be linked to the Israeli Parliament and the Israeli state. The question of sovereignty over the West Bank will also be discussed. A discussion will be held for the announcement of a joint Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian sovereignty on the West Bank. In case no agreement is reached in this respect, the issue will be referred for international arbitration.

13. Israel and the PLO agree to maintain Jerusalem united with one municipality. The municipal council will be formed from representatives of the Jewish and Arab quarters. This measure will be enforced for a period of 10 years from the moment the Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty is signed. In case the Governments of Israel and Palestine approve this agreement, Israel agrees to transfer the Palestinian national institutions to one of the Palestinian quarters in East Jerusalem or to any other Palestinian city in the West Bank.

14. The PLO agrees that the first task of the Palestinian confederation will be to resettle the refugees in permanent quarters in the [West] Bank and the [Gaza] Strip. For this purpose, the PLO will collect funds from world countries and the Arab countries. The Palestinians will be assisted in this task by Israeli experts.

15. The Israeli and Palestinian Governments will initiate political talks to establish a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestinian political confederation in the [West] Bank and the [Gaza] Strip. This confederation will operate in a similar manner to the confederation in Malaysia.

16. The Palestinian confederation will assist Israel in establishing and promoting diplomatic, economic, and scientific relations with all the Arab and Islamic countries which are members in the Arab League.

17. Israel and the Palestinian confederation will take the initiative to establish large development plants in the field of energy, water, supplies, tourism, banking, international trade, science, and culture.

Prepared by Arye Hess, member of the Labor Party's political council and head of the Labor Party's confederation group.

Likud MK Submits Motion for July Elections
TA071928 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Likud Knesset Member David Magen this evening tabled his motion to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections on 26 July. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav has learned that Alignment leaders are now holding consultations, and are studying the possibility of getting a majority to bring the elections forward to May.

Golan Druze Travel to Syria for Family Visits
TA071825 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Report from the north by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] This afternoon, 20 Druze residents of the northern Golan crossed the border into Syria to visit their relatives. This follows the permission granted by Israel

and Syria for that group to cross the border at Al-Qunaytirah under the auspices of the International Red Cross [IRC]. Some of these Druze had not seen their families for over 20 years. Most of them come from Majdal Shams, Buq'ata, and 'Ayn Qunyah. After the IRC representatives and Interior Ministry officials checked their documents, the Druze inhabitants crossed the border on the Golan and were welcomed by representatives of the Syrian Administration.

More on Unrest, Related Events in Territories

Civilian Administration Viewed

TA070728 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 7 Mar 88 p 2

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] The Civilian Administration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is still functioning despite threats against its employees, Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of activities in the territories, said last night. Goren said that the threats, accompanied by the destruction of property and attempts to harm the Civilian Administration workers, were part of an effort since the beginning of the unrest to drive a wedge between the population in the territories and the administration. The Civilian Administration employs over 18,000 local residents in the West Bank and Gaza, including some 11,000 teachers, he said.

Goren, in a discussion of the economic impact of the uprising on the territories, said that there had been falling off in the amount of taxes collected, but that the administration was seeking ways to ensure that residents paid their taxes. One measure that had been taken, he said, was to require residents seeking drivers licences, travel documents and export permits to appear at the administration offices to obtain an additional permit. Residents who had not paid their taxes were not issued the documents, he said. Goren said the measure also served to maintain contact between residents and the administration.

Also in the economic sphere, Goren said that the third branch of the Cairo-Amman Bank to be set up in the West Bank had recently opened its doors in Hebron. Residents had deposited nearly half a million dollars in the first few days, he said, and the branch was expected to be the most profitable of the three. The bank earlier opened branches in Nabulus and Ramallah.

Goren said that nearly all the residents of the Gaza Strip employed in Israel have been going to work every day, while in the West Bank the number arriving at work in Israel is about 80 per cent. Rival criminal elements have been taking advantage of the instability in the territories to settle accounts, Goren said. Reports of thefts and protection racketeering have also increased, he said.

West Bank Command Upgraded

TA060905 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 6 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] The IDF has rearranged its command structure in the West Bank, upgrading the post of commander of the West Bank from aluf-mishne (colonel) to tat-aluf (brigadier-general). The move comes in response to almost three months of violence, during which the number of soldiers serving in the West Bank has increased some three-fold. According to a military source, the number of soldiers serving in the West Bank now warrants the upgrading.

Aluf-Mishne Gabi Ofir, a former commander of the Golani Brigade, has been appointed commander of the West Bank and promoted to tat-aluf. Ofir replaces Aluf-Mishne Ze'ev Bone, who has assumed another position.

In addition to upgrading the command position, the IDF has also upgraded the posts of the three district commands in the West Bank—Judaea, Samaria and Ramallah—to the level of aluf-mishne, the source said.

Shortly after the unrest began in December, the IDF assigned two brigadier-generals to the Samaria and Judaea districts. A military source estimated last night that those two officers will remain in the area only as long as the unrest persists, while Ofir's position is considered a part of a restructuring of the command.

Ofir was born in Morocco in 1950. He has spent his entire military career in the infantry, rising from private to commander of the Golani Brigade, a post he left two years ago. Ofir is a graduate of the Staff and Command College. He is married and the father of three children.

IDF Extends Reservist Duty

TA062052 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] In the coming year reserve soldiers will serve in the army up to 50 days a year, due to the additional activity in the territories. This was reported by our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky. Our reporter says that the IDF intends to free regular army soldiers as much as possible for training and to place the heavier burden of activity in the territories on the reservists.

Arab Policeman's Body Found

TA081238 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The body of a local policeman in civilian clothes was found in the 'Aqabat Jabr refugee camp. Our police correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that all the signs indicate that the policeman was murdered during the night. His body was discovered in his home in the refugee camp. The police have not yet released the

policeman's name. The investigation team is exploring various possibilities, but the likelihood is that the man was murdered for serving in the Israeli police.

IDF Demolishes Houses in Biddu

TA080536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Excerpts] A Nabulus resident was wounded last night when soldiers opened fire during a violent demonstration. The soldiers were attacked by a mob which would not disperse when tear gas was used. In the Gaza Strip, three residents of the Al-Shati' refugee camp were wounded by soldiers during a demonstration. There was also rioting in Khan Yunus. Curfews were imposed in both places. [passage omitted]

The army last night demolished the houses of two Palestinians in the village of Biddu, northwest of Jerusalem. Reporter Moti Amir says the villagers took part in the killing of a resident who cooperated with Israel and had thrown firebombs at Israeli cars.

Conflicting Calls for Strikes

TA062017 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Excerpt] There are increased calls in Judaea and Samaria for the resumption of studies in schools. The education system resumed its activity at the beginning of last month, at the end of the semester's vacation, but several schools which served as centers of disturbances were closed down by the Civilian Administration. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias explains that according to Jordanian law, holding no classes in a school for a period exceeding 70 days automatically causes the cancellation of the entire school year. This is the crucial factor which prompting parents and educators to push for the resumption of classes now.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that leaflets by the religious elements were distributed in the Gaza Strip, calling on the residents to stage a complete strike tomorrow, including transportation, to mark the 31st anniversary of the IDF's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip at the end of the Sinai campaign. This call runs counter to the guidelines issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising which stipulated only a partial strike for tomorrow. Our correspondent reports that in other places too there have been signs which indicate that the religious groups are now aiming at independent activity. [passage omitted]

Golan Druze Mark Ba'th Day

TA081200 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Police reinforcements have been sent to the Golan Heights today, where Druze residents are marking Ba'th Day, the anniversary of the rise to power in Syria of the Ba'th Party. Our reporter in the north says that many

pupils were absent from schools today and a general strike is in effect in the village of Buq'ata. Shops, however, are open for business.

7 Druze Fined

TA081326 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] A fine of 15,000 shekels was imposed on seven Golan Heights Druze youths for participating in riots in their villages 3 weeks ago. The Zefat Magistrate Court also gave them a suspended sentence of 1 year in jail. Our correspondent notes that this is the harshest sentence passed on Golan Heights Druze youths in connection with rioting.

Major Given Suspended Sentence

TA061651 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 6 Mar 88 p 9

[Report by Eytan Mor]

[Text] The Southern Command's District Court handed down a 4-month suspended sentence on a company commander with the rank of major. The major fired on and wounded an Arab youth during a chase after riots in the Gaza refugee camp.

In December 1987 the commander and several soldiers were sent to put down a riot in the Gaza refugee camp. While carrying out the mission, the officer chased after Khalid Jukhaji, 18, who fled into a nearby alley. The officer fired four shots at his legs. The youth was wounded in the hip and head by ricochets from two bullets.

The officer, who after plea bargaining admitted disobeying orders which forbid opening fire, was convicted of deviating from authority and endangering life. His attorneys, Dan Raveh and Lieutenant Ian Domnitz, claimed that he tried to take reasonable measures to capture the escaped man, but met with violent resistance and was forced to open fire.

The prosecutor, Lieutenant Roni Levi, referred to the graveness of the act, but did not call for the major's demotion. In handing down sentence, the judges, headed by Colonel Yoram Zalkovnik, said, "We are aware of the difficult tasks the IDF soldiers and officers have to perform in attempting to carry out the law in the territories."

Riot Organizer Indicted

TA061400 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
6 Mar 88 p 5

[Report by Ya'ir Fidel]

[Excerpt] An indictment was presented on Friday in the Lod military court against Muhammad Atun, 19, for organizing the riots in the East Jerusalem area. Atun,

who studies at the Hebrew University, is a resident of the village of Sur Bahir. He was arrested some 2 weeks ago and the charge sheet against him was based on the emergency regulations. Atun was arrested together with five other young people who are accused of burning tires and desecrating a memorial near Kibbutz Ramat Rahel. The five are suspected of belonging to George Habash's Democratic Front. [passage omitted]

Doctors Study Gaza Wounded

TA061515 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 6 Mar 88 p 1

[Report by Efi Landau]

[Excerpt] A group of 12 doctors from hospitals in the center of the country, including two departmental heads, yesterday toured the Gaza Strip. They visited a mental hospital, the

Al-Shifa' Hospital, which is the main hospital in the Gaza Strip, and the Al-Shati' refugee camp. The aim of the tour, which was coordinated with doctors in Gaza, was to gain an impression of the condition of the wounded from the uprising against the IDF in the Gaza Strip. The doctors saw—directly and from x-rays—evidence of damage from bullets which are not standard issue in the IDF. These are bullets which break up into small splinters inside the body. This does not refer to dumdum bullets, one of the doctors clarified. [passage omitted]

King Husayn, Queen Nur Return to Amman 4 Mar
JN041842 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] This evening Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur returned home after a European tour that took them to the Vatican, Italy, France, the FRG, and Austria. His Majesty King Husayn, chairman of the Amman summit—the summit of reconciliation and accord, held talks with these countries' leaders on regional developments against the background of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab land, the urgent need for an international Mideast peace conference, and Jordan's relations with each.

While in London His Majesty King Husayn conferred with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe. His majesty also met twice with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to discuss Mideast developments and explain Jordan's constant position on the peace process.

On hand to welcome their majesties at Amman airport were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Her Highness Princess Tharwat, His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, and other royal household members. Their majesties were also received by the Senate and House speakers, the court chief, the court minister, the deputy prime minister, ministers, the chief of staff, the public security chief, and other civilian and military officers.

Talks to Mubarak, Al-Asad
JN042019 Amman Television Service in English
2004 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had a telephone conversation with his majesty the king this evening following his majesty's return home. His majesty the king and President Mubarak exchanged views on conditions in the Arab region and the recent American moves, stressing the significance of coordinating the Arab position towards efforts being made to achieve comprehensive and just peace in the region.

His majesty the king this evening had a telephone conversation with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. They exchanged views and information on the international activity currently taking place in the region as well as the visits which U.S. Secretary of State Mr George Shultz is making to the capitals of the region and the ideas he is carrying on the peace process. His majesty the king and President al-Asad also exchanged views on the significance of the unity of Arab views and coordinating these views in light of the joint Arab position.

Minister Says U.S. Plan Viewed 'Positively'
JN080825 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
8 Mar 88 pp 1, 5

[By Lamis K. Andoni, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan sees positive elements in the new American Middle East peace plan and is seriously studying the proposals, Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah said Monday. "We welcome the American

moves and we believe that the American reengagement in the peace process is positive," Al-Khasawinah told reporters at a news conference held at the Ministry of Information.

The minister refused to disclose any detail of the American proposals submitted to Jordan by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz but said the Kingdom "views the American initiative positively." He did not elaborate but added that Jordan was consulting other Arab parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), on the peace plan.

Asked if Jordan was going to give a separate reply to the U.S. or whether there would be a unified Arab reply, Al-Khasawinah said the Kingdom would respond to the American plan as "an individual party but in accordance with the results of Arab coordination."

Al-Khasawinah accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of obstructing the peace process. "The collapse of the peace process shall not please us, here in Jordan, or anyone else," he said. "Yet, we believe that Shamir is trying to impede the peace process."

The minister refused to deny or confirm reports by international news agencies that Jordan had extended an invitation to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir was expected to arrive in Amman late Monday to head the Palestinian side of a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to Support the Steadfastness of the Palestinians living in the occupied Arab territories.

The PLO has rejected the new American peace plan and accused the U.S. of attempting to "defuse the Palestinian uprising," in the West Bank and Gaza. Al-Khasawinah refrained from commenting on the PLO's rejection of the American plan or Soviet reservations over the proposals. He noted that "neither the Palestinian people nor the PLO is against the U.S.....they are anxious to achieve a comprehensive and just peaceful settlement."

According to a purported text of the American plan published by an Israeli newspaper and reprinted in the JORDAN TIMES Monday, Arab-Israeli negotiations are scheduled to start May 1. The purported plan does not refer to Palestinian "self-rule" but to bilateral talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. It also says that there will be similar negotiations between Israel and other parties involved in the Middle East conflict.

Al-Khasawinah reiterated Jordan's commitment to the Arab demand for an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, on the basis of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. Political analysts here believe that Jordan hopes that the American government will move closer to the Arab stand.

Asked about an Algerian-Tunisian call for an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the Palestinian uprising, Al-Khasawinah said: "We have not received a formal invitation to attend such a summit, but it is our principled stand to support Arab consensus and Arab summits."

Asked by the JORDAN TIMES what the Jordanian position would be if the Palestinian people believe that the American initiative falls short of achieving their legitimate national rights, Al-Khasawinah said: "Jordan will never relinquish (Palestinian rights) or act according to a logic which encroaches (upon these rights), but it will always act with the aim of safeguarding the Palestinians' legitimate rights on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338."

'Source' Says PLO's 'Arafat Invited to Amman
JN061219 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1207 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] It has been learned from an informed source in Amman today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has received an invitation to visit Jordan to continue coordination of the stands between the two sides as part of Jordan's contacts with Arab sides to define a unified Arab stand on the U.S. proposals. The same source did not specify whether the visit will take place prior to or after 'Arafat's visit to Moscow slated for 15 March.

Jordan views with seriousness and interest the U.S. proposals to push forward the peace process in the Middle East and which developed during U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' two tours of the area.

Political circles in Amman say the extent of the success or failure of the U.S. efforts wholly depend upon on what concessions Washington can wrest from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who is slated to visit the United States in March. Shamir's visit is scheduled to take place prior to the expiry of the 10 days which the

United States gave to area countries to reply to its proposals. Observers here believe that unless Shamir accepts negotiations on the basis of the principle of territory in return for peace and complete Israeli withdrawal from the territory Israel occupied in 1967 the U.S. initiative will fail and, consequently, peace efforts will be delayed until after the forthcoming U.S. presidential elections.

AL-DUSTUR Reports Arrival of PLO's Al-Wazir
JN080732 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
8 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Amman yesterday evening on a visit lasting several days. During the visit he will head the Palestinian side to the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

Committee To Meet 'This Week'
JN071024 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
7 Mar 88 p 1

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—In a statement to AL-DUSTUR yesterday, Occupied Territory Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin said it is expected that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee will hold a meeting at the end of this week. This move will come after the committee's fund has received a \$19-million bank draft constituting the second and third installments of Saudi Arabia's 1986 contribution to the fund. The committee's last meeting was held in Amman on 16 December 1987.

Dudin added that Saudi Arabia is the only Arab state which still fulfills its financial obligations toward the fund in accordance with the 1978 Baghdad summit resolutions. It is noteworthy that Saudi Arabia activated the committee by paying \$9.5 million in January 1987 and the same amount in November 1987. The committee was frozen in 1986 because the Arab countries did not pay their financial obligations.

Further Reportage on Oxfam Employees' Abduction

Chances For Release 'Slim'

NC080845 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
7 Mar 88 p 4

[Excerpts] Highly placed sources in Sidon have affirmed that chances are slim for the release of Peter Coleridge, Oxfam's Middle East coordinator, and 'Umar al-Tarabulsi, Oxfam's Lebanon representative, who were abducted in 'Ayn al-Hulwah 3 days ago. REUTER, meanwhile, cited security sources in Sidon as expressing fear that the issue is quite complicated and the two might have been kidnapped. [passage omitted]

REUTER cites what it calls Shi'ite sources as saying that the kidnappers of foreigners have moved their activities to the south after the exodus of foreigners from Beirut. The same agency cites a diplomatic source as saying that foreigners had always placed confidence in the Amal Movement and the Palestinians, but matters changed when Muslim fundamentalists linked with Iran infiltrated the two sides.

Meanwhile, Da'ud Da'ud, the Amal Movement's Executive Committee chairman, has stated that there is a plan to kidnap more foreigners in the south. 'Abd al-Majid Salih, an Amal Movement political official, said there is a plan to shift kidnappings from Beirut to the south. But he added: We will not allow benefit seekers to exploit the south by kidnapping foreigners. [passage omitted]

Coleridge, Assistant Released

NC081429 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in English 1424 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] We have just received [word] that the Middle East Director of Oxfam, British national Peter Coleridge, has been released along with his assistant 'Umar al-Tarabulsi. They have been sighted in the city of Sidon in south Lebanon. The two men were abducted 5 days ago.

Nasirite's Sa'd Confirms Release

NC081530 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Peter Coleridge and 'Umar al-Tarabulsi, officials of the UK charity organization Oxfam, were freed in Sidon this afternoon. Mustafa Sa'd, secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization, said that representatives of Fatah-Revolutionary Council released the Oxfam officials into his custody, and that they are both in good health.

Fatah Claims Responsibility

NC081703 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1635 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] British National Peter Coleridge, the Middle East director for the Oxfam charity and relief organization, and 'Umar al-Tarabulsi, the organization's director in Lebanon, were freed this afternoon. It has been learned that the two freed hostages were handed over to Mustafa Sa'd, secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization, in Sidon at 1615 today.

Fatah—Revolutionary Council, which is led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], announced that it was holding the two Oxfam employees. The two men were kidnapped in south Lebanon last Thursday and released in Sidon today. Walid Khalid, a spokesman for this group and a member of its Executive Committee, told journalists in Sidon today that Peter Coleridge, the Middle East director of Oxfam, and 'Umar al-Tarabulsi, director of the organization in Lebanon, had been apprehended for interrogation because Coleridge had been taking photographs without a licence.

Oxfam Confirms Release

LD081736 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English
1700 GMT 8 Mar 88

[By Finlay Marshall, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Text] Kidnapped British Oxfam official Peter Coleridge was freed in the Lebanon today. Mr Coleridge, 44, and Syrian colleague 'Umar al-Tarabulsi were released in Sidon at lunchtime after being seized by Fatah Revolutionary Council guerrillas last Thursday. The two men were today handed over by their captors at the Sidon home of Mustafa Sa'd, a Sunni Muslim leader. ASSOCIATED PRESS quoted him as saying: "They have been delivered to me. They are in my house now and they're in good health."

Officials at Oxfam's headquarters in Oxford added: "We have confirmed that Peter is alive and well and we hope to speak to him later today." The charity told Mr Coleridge's wife, Angela, waiting at their home in Headington, Oxford, that he was safe. The couple have three children—Jessie, 12, Sara, 11 and five-year-old Edward.

Oxfam said they had been in contact with humanitarian organisations in the Lebanon, and they had helped to trace the two abducted men. Mr Coleridge, Middle East coordinator for Oxfam, and Mr al-Tarabulsi, the charity's head of operations in the Lebanon, were seized near 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp. The Briton was taking photographs only hours after his arrival in the area to check on the charity's work among refugees.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council is controlled by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], blamed for a number of kidnappings and other terrorist acts.

4 Western Humanitarian Workers Leave Sidon
NC072018 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Four Westerners, two Swiss and two Danes, left Sidon today in the wake of the kidnapping of foreigners there. The four work for international humanitarian organizations in the south. It should be recalled that Eng Mustafa Sa'd, Nasirite Popular Organization leader, has called on foreigners to leave Lebanon because nobody can protect them.

Foreigners Stopped, Robbed in Sidon 5 Mar
NC080657 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Gunmen intercepted 15 Swiss and Belgians as they were leaving the residence of a Belgian doctor, a member of the Doctors Without Borders organization, in Sidon on Saturday, 5 March. The gunmen robbed the foreigners and checked to see if there were any French nationals among them.

Hawi Calls for End to U.S. 'Intervention'
NC071940 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] secretary general, [George Hawi], accompanied by an LCP delegation of the party's Political Bureau members, Nadim 'Abd al-Samad and George Batal, visited PSP leader Walid Junblatt in Al-Mukhtarah today. After the meeting, the LCP leader called on the nationalist forces and popular movement to unite and be active so the presidential elections can be moved from the embassies' premises and the whisperings of the U.S. envoys to the general public. The public, he added, is required to express its view on the programs that will help the country emerge from its crisis. Hawi also called for an end to U.S. intervention in Lebanese internal affairs and for a halt to the dealings with the U.S. imperialism's emissaries regarding the Lebanese issue. Solution to the Lebanese crisis, he added, is possible only through a national dialogue, with the assistance of fraternal Syria, which will eventually (re)consolidate the basic principles of the political reform. These principles, he continued, are based on the expulsion of the Israeli occupation and the assertion of Lebanon's Arab identity and unity.

Outgoing PRC Envoy Meets Al-Jumayyil, Comments
NC071234 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil received PRC Ambassador to Lebanon Wu Shunyu this morning. They reviewed the latest developments in Lebanon.

After the meeting, the PRC ambassador said: On the occasion of my departure from Lebanon, I wished to bid the president farewell and to thank, through the press, all the friends I have made here. I also want to wish the

Lebanese people an end to their crisis and the realization of national reconciliation. I also hope the Lebanese people will overcome the obstacles now facing them.

Responding to a question on how the PRC can help Lebanon overcome its crisis, the PRC ambassador said: In all international forums, the PRC supports the Lebanese Government's proposals for resolving the crisis. We also support the Lebanese Government's stand, which calls for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli army to Lebanon's internationally recognized borders. The PRC Government is also exerting every effort to support Lebanon in preserving its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

On how the PRC can bring about a reconciliation among the Lebanese, the PRC ambassador said: I believe that the Lebanese problem is certainly a Lebanese issue because Lebanon is for the Lebanese. If the initiatives and efforts that are made by the foreign forces are suitable for resolving the Lebanese crisis, then the PRC approves of and supports them. I believe that the solution of the Lebanese issue rests with the Lebanese people themselves.

LE MONDE Interviews President Al-Jumayyil
PM071440 Paris LE MONDE in French
6-7 Mar 88 p 1, 3

[Interview with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil by Francoise Chipaux in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] Beirut—The words "Offense and Pardon" are not necessarily part of people's political vocabulary. Nevertheless, this title has been chosen for the book just published by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil.

"It is," he explained, "about the offense to the nation. It has caused such a deep rift among the Lebanese people that we can only surmount it by means of a pardon in the form of a collective step forward."

Now, 6 months before his term of office ends, President al-Jumayyil has set out his thoughts and experiences and some clues to a better understanding of his eventful presidency. The book, written in French, should certainly not be expected to provide any spectacular revelations or even to spark any controversies. None of the people involved in day-to-day conflicts are named. How could it have been otherwise, since Al-Jumayyil is still in office and is not about to end his political career now, at the age of 46?

What is the reason for the book's appearance now? "The presidency is not a set term as such," Amin al-Jumayyil said. "My commitment to the nation existed well before that and will continue well beyond it. Some people believed I would be even stronger as national leader than as president, in view of the inherent drawbacks of the

post of president. My book expresses my national political options, as felt by all nationalistic Lebanese who cherish their country's independence, sovereignty, and Arabism."

Examining the various stages in his 6 years in B'abda, Al-Jumayyil clarifies in his account—which often could helpfully have been more detailed—the difficulties encountered by the Lebanese authorities in asserting their viewpoint. Reading between the lines, one is constantly aware that these difficulties relate partly to the encouraging promises made from time to time by Lebanon's various "allies"—more concerned with their own interests than with those of a splintered state.

The Americans were President Amin al-Jumayyil's first interlocutors on his arrival at B'abda amid the storm of the Israeli invasion. They wanted to leave quickly—so quickly that they gave Lebanon manifold assurances that they were unable to honor, especially in the case of the stillborn accord with Israel of 17 May 1983.

Was President al-Jumayyil too confident then? "Did I have any other choice?" he replied. "On the one hand the process was already underway—the Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, and Israelis were involved—and the multinational force was there. I do not see who could have helped me more effectively to ensure the Israeli army's withdrawal and the restoration of national sovereignty throughout the territory. I also hoped to be able to depend on the help of the moderate Arabs close to the United States."

Nevertheless, Al-Jumayyil did not admit to being "disappointed" with America's attitude, inasmuch as, he said, "I never had any illusions. We never asked the impossible of the Americans. I doubt whether I myself would have appealed for the American Army's intervention, since the United States had not yet entirely recovered from the Vietnam syndrome. I also tried to provide UN protection for this Western force, sent at the request of the Palestinians and their allies."

"The Americans," the president added, "are a substantial asset, but a relative and fragile one. It is important to have them on our side and they helped us subsequently, as they have been doing since September with a view to restoring the dialogue with Syria."

The "misunderstanding" with Syria—which features throughout the book, as it does throughout the Lebanese scene—is undoubtedly one of the Lebanese president's major regrets. Free of any charges of adopting a pro-Israeli stance and known for his Arab options, Al-Jumayyil could perhaps have better hopes of success than his predecessors, all of whom, without exception, have experienced frictions with Damascus during their presidency.

"The normalization of our relations," he said, "was my main concern when I acceded to power." Extracts from a conversation he had with President Al-Asad—"the man who, despite everything, best understood the Lebanese problem"—are significant in this regard. However, he added, "Syria has always tended to treat Lebanon irresponsibly. Hitherto I have argued that it is in both countries' interests to maintain good relations."

At what price? "Syria must respect Lebanese integrity and sovereignty." This demand resulted in the Lebanese president's famous "no" to the December 1985 Damascus agreement among the militia forces. His rejection was a relief to many Lebanese, including even some of the signatories of the accord. It resulted in the president's becoming somewhat isolated, subsequently boycotted by the whole of the Muslim West and the pro-Syrian opposition.

"Lebanon," he said, "is much more united now than it was in 1982. The Lebanese are awaiting only one thing—to rebuild together that which they themselves have destroyed. I can assure you that these leaders—apparently aggressive and obstinate—are anxious to resume the dialogue and to resolve this situation."

This determination to survive and to make the voice of Lebanon's safeguarded legality heard everywhere and at all times underlies the entire book. "We have avoided collapse: This is the important thing," we were told by Amin al-Jumayyil, who has not lost hope of ending his term of office with "a valid solution that will constitute a first step toward peace. My remaining 6 months," he said, "are as important as the previous 5 and 1/2 years. All my hopes, objectives, and efforts must now be directed toward finding a solution to this crisis."

Al-Jumayyil Discusses Elections, Coexistence
NC041834 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has expressed hope that the presidential elections in Lebanon will be held in September as scheduled. He noted that achieving national accord on a new formula of constitutional reform will facilitate the holding of elections in September.

In an interview with the French magazine, LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, published today, President al-Jumayyil pointed out that throughout the years of war many attempts were made to jeopardize Lebanon's role in the Arab world. He called for preserving the formula of coexistence among the various communities and political tendencies, affirming that Lebanon can, under no circumstances, be separated from its Arab entity.

The president added that despite all the appearances which suggest that there are presently divisions within Lebanon, elements of unity among the citizens still exist.

Sham'un Presents Presidential Candidacy Program
NC051602 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Correspondent Rima Farah reports on news conference held by Dani Sham'un, National Liberal Party (NLP) leader, on 5 March; place not given]

[Text] No to partition. Lebanon is a secular and non-aligned country and a haven for all minorities. Lebanon is Lebanon and Syria is Syria. These are the main points of the political views that NLP leader Dani Sham'un declared in his presidential candidacy program at a news conference held this afternoon. In a portion of the news conference entitled "Ending the State of Enmity and War," Sham'un called for organizing a roundtable meeting that would include all parties in a dialogue to reach a solution that would safeguard the rights of all parties, end disputes and wars, and apply the law to all people without discrimination.

Sham'un said: We cannot imagine Lebanon as a partitioned homeland. We reject and oppose partition. The Lebanese can resolve their political differences on the basis of equality and loyalty to the homeland. Foreign forces, be they regional or international, will not have any right to keep any form of military presence on Lebanese territory. Lebanon is a secular homeland and all the Lebanese are equal before the law. Lebanon is a haven for all minorities and not a Christian national homeland; however, it is a homeland for the Christians and minorities.

Concerning Lebanon's relations with Syria, Sham'un said: Lebanon and Syria are separate countries, each with its own people and different system of government. Although they have several common interests, Lebanon remains Lebanon and Syria remains Syria. Each has to respect the other's independence and sovereignty. In addition, the ties of friendship and good neighborliness must be preserved in the interest of both countries. Since Lebanon's security is linked to that of Syria, Lebanon must reassure Syria that it will guarantee the security of its borders. In return, Syria must safeguard Lebanon's borders, because Lebanon's security is part of Syria's security. He called on Syria to give up the ideas of annexing Lebanon or parts of it, consecrating its tutelage, and interfering in its affairs. He said that Syria must be convinced that such a policy will only infringe on Lebanon. Normal diplomatic relations must be established between Damascus and Beirut. He added: We will work to achieve the goal of reviving, even unilaterally, the Lebanese-Syrian relations bureau at an early stage. He stressed his concern for maintaining distinguished relations with all Arab countries based on mutual respect within the framework of the Arab League.

Regarding relations with Israel, Sham'un called for reviving the truce agreement, guaranteeing the border's security, working to reach a peaceful solution, and normalizing relations within the framework of an international conference.

Concerning the Palestinian presence, Sham'un said that the Palestinian people have a rightful cause, and he rejected the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon. On Lebanon's international relations, he said that Lebanon is a nonaligned country and must maintain the most friendly ties and mutual respect with all countries of the world, without exception. He noted that Lebanon abides by the UN Charter and human rights.

Regarding Lebanon's domestic situation, Sham'un called for strengthening and promoting the internal security forces and the Army so that they can defend Lebanon and protect the Lebanese. He said that the Army is the cornerstone of the homeland which undertakes the duty of safeguarding the borders in the north, south, east, and west. He said: We must ensure utmost support for the Army and equip it with the most modern arms.

Sham'un called for relying on a consultative council to rule the country, saying: The era of one man rule in democratic systems is gone. A team of specialists in all areas of rule must be established to form a consultative council to assist the executive authority in discharging its tasks.

PSP Issues Statement on Reform, Uprising
NC072210 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The PSP Political Bureau has held its regular meeting under the chairmanship of party leader Walid Junblatt. It discussed local, Arab, and international political developments and issued the following statement:

1. Amin al-Jumayyil's paper under the title "Power Sharing and Abolition of Political Sectarianism as a Prelude to Harmonious Dialogue and Political Solution" constitutes a major retreat from the current Constitution's principles and the political and constitutional norms in Lebanon's system so far. Thus, the paper does not prompt the initiation of a dialogue among the Lebanese for the sake of reconciliation. Rather, it discourages such a dialogue by clinging to the sectarian formula and its effects on the political and social dimensions of the sectarian privileges. These privileges had provoked the civil war and are still blocking a national solution, unity, and the revival of the state's institutions.

Al-Jumayyil's paper disregards all previous plans, including the 1976 constitutional document and the papers Al-Jumayyil and his team had submitted before. It [the paper] is based on promoting and backing the sectarian system through mandatory constitutional provisions, which only complicate the plans for democratic change in Lebanon. Thus, it rejects the Lebanese people's wish to abolish the sectarian system, to set up a national democratic system as the only means of salvation from internal divisions, and to establish a democratic framework for national political options.

This new sectarian formula contradicts all the talk about Lebanon's Arabism as a comprehensive pan-Arab identity, because it perpetuates sectarian divisions and identity. Furthermore, it creates new contradictions among the Lebanese in view of the power sharing plan, ascribing absolute power, unrestricted by any political responsibilities, to the president of the Republic. According to the paper, the government as a whole will not enjoy any powers independent from those of the president of the Republic, and will alone bear the regime's political responsibilities.

This trend toward (increasing the powers) of the regime is inconsistent with the call for power sharing, abolition of sectarianism, and democracy.

The PSP—which is struggling for an Arab national democratic non-sectarian system that would preserve the unity of Lebanon and the Lebanese, and would prevent their divisions on political options and the programs of democratic changes—raises the unanimous national stand in responding to Al-Jumayyil's paper. The PSP calls for promoting this unity of stands and translating it into a unified program. The PSP believes that any attempt to halt the war and revive the state's institutions must not obstruct the Lebanese people's wish to change their system and develop it in a democratic way. Therefore, the PSP calls for the complete abolition of sectarianism within a mandatory brief period of time, with a national constitutional body supervising this process. The abolition of sectarianism should also be coupled with democratic rectification, the expansion of people's representation, large-scale administrative reforms, and a comprehensive national development plan.

2. The Political Bureau reviewed the information available so far about the U.S. initiative regarding the Palestinian Arab people's popular and national uprising, its hostility toward the Arab people's struggle and rights, and the ways it suggests to abort this struggle.

The PSP underlines the extraordinary importance of the PLO's role in confronting this American-Israeli move. The Political Bureau stresses the need to expedite the process of achieving national unity, within the framework of the PLO leadership, on the basis of a democratic national program. It also stresses the need to establish the PLO's relations with Syria on the basis of a joint plan to provide pan-Arab support for the uprising and to promote steadfastness regarding the U.S. plans. [passage omitted]

Further Reports on Military Activities 4-7 Mar

Resistance Destroys Israeli Tank

NC061815 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The resistance fighters in the south today emphasized that they destroyed an Israeli Merkava tank in the central sector of occupied south Lebanon yesterday. The Voice of

Islam radio, organ of the Islamic resistance, said that a bomb was exploded when the tank was traversing the Bi'r al-Salasil road, causing many casualties among the crew.

5 Israeli's Wounded 5 Mar

NC050824 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Five Israeli soldiers were wounded when resistance fighters attacked an Israeli patrol on a dirt road south of the occupied town of Hula. The resistance fighters managed to destroy the troop carrier in which the enemy personnel were riding. Shortly afterward, enemy troops raked gunfire on the surroundings of Hula, Mays al-Jabal, and 'Aytarun.

Israeli, Lahds Attacked 6 Mar

NC062120 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] At 2230 last night, Martyr Shaykh Karamal-Faqih Force of the resistance battalions attacked the position jointly held by the enemy forces and agent Lahd men in Tailat Rahaf with various types of medium- and light-machineguns and rockets. After a more than 30-minute fierce battle, the resistance men assumed full control of the post. The engineering units blew up all fortifications, bunkers, and enemy soldiers' quarters.

9 Feb Group Attacks Syrians

NC041140 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi Unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for planting two explosive charges targeted against a Syrian occupation forces post in the Qasqas area of West Beirut.

A spokesman for the organization has said that the first charge, weighing 3-kg, exploded 10 meters away from the Al-'Adm building at 1100. The second charge, weighing 10 kg, was targeted against a Syrian assembly point inside the Al-'Adm building and went off 15 minutes later. According to the spokesman, the explosions caused casualties among the Syrian soldiers.

Ba'th Group Attacks Israelis

NC051219 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front issued a statement today on the occasion marking the 25th anniversary of the 8 March revolution [in Syria]. The statement says: Two groups of the Ba'th forces, using machineguns, rockets, and hand grenades, carried out a special attack against Kafr Hunah and its checkpoint in Jazzin. The clash lasted for 50 minutes, during which time the two groups managed to gain control of the position.

Meanwhile, the enemy troops and their agents, using various kinds of weapons, opened fire from their positions in 'Ayn al-Khawkh and Tumat Niha. The operation resulted in the killing or wounding of 10 Israeli troops.

Car Bomb Intended for Amal

NC071625 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] An explosive device went off near the Hilton movie theater in the area of Al-Murayjah, in the southern suburb of Beirut, at approximately 1620 today. The device was planted inside a Renault 12 belonging to a person named 'Ali Rumayhi Shuqayr. Preliminary information speaks

only of property damage. However, it has been reported that the target was an Amal office located near the scene of the blast, as part of the inter-Amal struggle.

SLA Repels Attack on Bra'shit

NC080716 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope
in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] A South Lebanese Army (SLA) position in Bra'shit was the target of an attack last night by a terrorist group, which fired missiles at the position from the town of Bra'shit. Personnel manning the position repelled the attackers and forced them to retreat following a clash in which all types of weapons were used. The troops manning the position suffered no injuries. Losses suffered by the terrorists are not yet known. Combing operations by the SLA are underway to determine the attackers' losses.

Afghanistan

Keshtmand Returns From Medical Checkup in USSR
LD071827 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, who went to the Soviet Union some time ago for a medical checkup, returned home this morning.

Saleh Muhammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee; Deputy Prime Ministers Nazar Muhammad, Gul Dad, Muhammad Hakim, Sayyed Muhammad Nasim Mayhanparasat, Muhammad 'Aziz, Hasan Sharq, and Mahbubullah Koshani; Communications Minister Muhammad Aslam Watanjar; Interior Minister Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy; as well as Vladimir Fedosov, charge d'affaires at the Soviet Embassy; and Aleksandr Petrov, economic counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, welcomed Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand at Kabul international airport.

Pakistan Urged To Accept Geneva Accord
LD072057 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Those who do not understand the truth and who (?do not accept the truth) are not at fault. But those who understand the truth and who refrain from accepting it are committing a great sin which no one can forgive. That is obvious now, when the people of Afghanistan are tired of war and bloodshed in their country. They do not want one brother to be killed at the hands of another brother any more in our ancient land, Afghanistan. Thus, the Republic of Afghanistan is sincerely trying to establish lasting peace in our war-torn country. This desire is reflected in the peaceful position of the Afghan Republic and the Soviet Union and in the recent statements by Afghan President Esteemed Najibullah and General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev of the CPSU Central Committee, which have been positively welcomed throughout the world.

Despite this, however, the well-known forces who reap foul gains from the war in Afghanistan are trying in a very treacherous way to create obstacles to the conclusion of the present talks and agreements in Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan, preventing the Geneva talks from being successful and yielding fruitful results so that peace, which is the desire of all people, will be established in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, 100 million people of Pakistan, who have lost patience with the unwanted guests, are asking for a rapid political solution to the situation around Afghanistan—contrary to the designs of Pakistani President General Ziaul Haq. The opponents of the Afghan

revolution, contrary to the national interests of the people of Pakistan, not only incite tribal and regional disputes in that country, but in addition to the smuggling of narcotics and arms, are engaged in looting and plundering. The Pakistani president, contrary to the demands of the people of Pakistan and of the region, is collaborating with the leaders of the extremist groups and is trying to create obstacles to the success of the Geneva talks in order to preserve its own interests. If this is not so then why do the Pakistani rulers not choose an (?open) stand and why do they utter nonsense before realities and the public opinion?

The anxiety of the Pakistani state and the now agreeable, now disagreeable reaction of the Pakistani rulers to the steps taken by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union shows that the enemies of peace and of the interests of the people will never agree to lasting peace in Afghanistan. But the sun cannot be hidden with two fingers. Now everyone knows who wants peace and who wants to create obstacles in the way of peace. Nevertheless, we hope that the Pakistani rulers will choose to adopt a constructive stand before their own people and before international public opinion and that they will choose to accept reality.

There is no place for further questions now, when, in accordance with the proposals of the Pakistani side in Geneva, the timeframe for the withdrawal of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan—50 percent of the forces will withdraw within the first 3 months and the remaining 50 percent will withdraw in the next 6 months, that is, all the forces will return to their peaceful country within a single 9-month period—has been agreed on. However, if despite all this the Pakistani side, contrary to the demands of the million masses and of the opposition leaders, tries to avoid signing the agreements, the responsibility for the consequences will rest with them. History will never forgive those who, contrary to international public opinion, create obstacles in the way of prosperity of the people and countries and in the way of reaching peace.

Najibullah Prays for Success
LD051055 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT
5 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 4, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, some Politburo members and members of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA CC), some responsibilities of central offices together with thousands of pious Afghan people participated at Friday prayer here today in a mosque of Kabul city and prayed for complete success of the policy of national reconciliation and ensuring of a nation-wide peace in the country.

Preachers and clergies from eleven precincts of Kabul city, members of Islamic Consultative Council of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Trust Properties and members of the High Council of Scholars and Clergies in

their speeches stressed on the historic significance of the February 8th statement of the president of Afghanistan for ensuring a country-wide peace in the country.

Pinpointing the privileges of a nation-wide peace and tranquility from the point of view of Islam religion, they said that success of Geneva talks is in the interest of Muslim people of Afghanistan and the region it is the duty of all Afghan patriots and all Muslims in the region to strive for the success of the talks.

Mujahidin Leader Interviewed

*LD041222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of Afghanistan's Islamic Society [Jamiyat-e Eslami], in an exclusive interview with an IRNA correspondent on Thursday morning, commented on the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as the barbaric attacks of the Iraqi regime on Iranian cities. We draw your attention to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Rabbani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The stance of the mujahidin vis-a-vis the Geneva talks is quite clear. The mujahidin will never accept the outcome of the Geneva talks. The mujahidin reject any talks or resolutions on the Afghanistan issue that are passed without direct participation of the mujahidin themselves, for the mujahidin are the representatives of their nation. On this basis, we have stressed in the past that the Geneva talks are not approved by the mujahidin, and the mujahidin have not changed their stance on this issue.

[Unidentified correspondent] In the wake of the massacre of the Muslim revolutionaries in the Islamic territories, imperialism has resorted to a new round of crimes against the Islamic Revolution by launching attacks on Iran's residential areas. Could you please tell us what you think of this?

[Rabbani] We are certain that as a result of the Islamic Revolution victory in Iran, the climax of the Islamic jihad in Afghanistan, and the revival of the Islamic revolution in Palestine, the enemy is in a serious state of panic. They admit that following the decisive stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its support for the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan and the Palestinian uprising, the superpowers' (?interests) are threatened. They have therefore joined hands to intimidate the Islamic nation of Iran by persuading their Ba'thist hirelings to launch dastardly and inhumane attacks on residential areas and economic centers of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We believe their unfair endeavor is fruitless.

No matter what steps are taken by the Eastern and Western superpowers to combat Islamic revolutions of the world, their efforts cannot achieve anything. Islamic revolutions of the world have found their way, and, God

willing, a day will come that when will have to concede defeat in the face of the Islamic revolution, despite all their inhumane and barbaric efforts.

While condemning these cowardly and savage attacks on houses, children, old women, and hospitals, we are certain that their plot of dividing the Muslims will ultimately fail.

Of course, the Soviets have escalated their crimes lately, and we were informed that the missiles fired on the Islamic Republic of Iran are made in the USSR. We are certain that the Soviets in the East, and the colonialists in the West, are all united against Islamic revolutions. We are, however, certain that they do not understand the motive and morale of the Islamic nations. They will not achieve anything through their barbarous attacks and conspiracies. They will not crush the powerful element of faith.

As far as the Muslim nation of Afghanistan is concerned, our people shall never forget the crimes committed by the Soviets in Afghanistan and other regions of the world. The people of Afghanistan believe that the Soviets cannot stay in Afghanistan because of the crimes they have committed there. The Muslim nation of Afghanistan is not giving up its struggle. The mujahidin will not remain indifferent in the face of the savage attack of the Ba'thists, or in other words the Eastern and Western superpowers. [end recording]

Najibullah Speaks on New Academic Year *LD052313 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Mar 88*

[Excerpts] Esteemed listeners of Radio Afghanistan, the bells of the schools and educational establishments in Kabul city and province and in the cold regions of the country rang out today. Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, participated this afternoon in a meeting which was held with students at the Habibia high school on the occasion of the new academic year. [passage omitted]

[Begin Najibullah recording] My dear young friends, school students, esteemed teachers, brothers and sisters, today the new academic year begins. The commencement of the new academic year is a great festival, not only to those who tomorrow will attend schools, technical and professional colleges, and institutes in order to learn and to teach, but also to all those who live knowledge and the country's future. Allow me to congratulate you all—students, teachers, and families—on the commencement of the new academic year. [applause] [passage omitted]

The state has always paid attention to education and training in the country. It should be said that working in this direction is not simple. The economic and cultural backwardness in our society and also the undeclared imposed war against our people, which most of all

damages education, makes this work difficult. However, we have not sat back with our arms folded. We have used all our resources to prepare favorable conditions for the education of school children.

In just a year since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy 106 new schools have been built, special attention has been paid to training teachers, and more than 2 million new textbooks have been published. Under the conditions of the national reconciliation policy, 1,990 children of emigrants have enrolled in schools, and they are busily learning with other Afghan children. I also want to mention that the state has allocated textbooks and equipment to the schools and sends teachers to the regions which are temporarily under the control of the opposite side in order to education children.

Work is going on successfully to eliminate the illiteracy among both the young and the elderly. More than 500,000 persons are studying on the courses and in schools in the campaign against illiteracy. Today alone 145,800 children have enrolled for the first time in schools, and a total of 860,000 students will start the new academic year. Special attention is being paid to children's upbringing. Military patriotic training is further expanding in the schools. Students will voluntarily serve in the ranks of the Afghanistan Armed Forces. Measures will be taken to improve the teaching of religious subjects in schools. [passage omitted]

Dear pupils, in congratulating you on the occasion of the new academic year I remember those Afghan children who live in camps in Pakistan and in Iran. Everybody knows that refugees live in conditions unworthy of human beings. Their children are deprived of the right of education. This profoundly worries us, because they too are Afghans.

On behalf of the pupils of Afghan schools, teachers, and all Afghans today, once again, I invite all refugees to return to the bosom of their families and to their ancestral homeland. The motherland awaits you. Do not teach your children lessons in fighting. Let them, together with millions of pupils, begin the new academic year in Afghanistan with lessons of peace.

Dear pupils and esteemed friends, the Soviet Union extends substantial assistance to us in the tasks of national education and training. Our pupils always receive free assistance and gifts sent by school students in the Soviet Union. Thousands of children stay in the beautiful pioneer camps and most of them see for the first time the blue water of the sea. Hundreds of pupils are studying in that fraternal country.

On behalf of all the people of Afghanistan and on behalf of you, dear pupils, today I want to sincerely thank pupils and all Soviet people for their disinterested assistance.

Today you will learn of a most important document, the statement by that great friend of the people of Afghanistan, M.S. Gorbachev, and the statement by the Afghan leadership. Let the first lesson of the academic year be the lesson of peace.

Let the new academic year become the year of peace and prosperity in the homeland. [applause]

Dear young friends, esteemed teachers, dear brothers and sisters, from the depths of my heart I wish you great victories. Thank you [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on Belorussian SSR Delegation's Visit

Meets With Hakim, Razmjo

LD061022 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT
6 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 5, BAKHTAR—Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime-minister of the Republic of Afghanistan and Zohur Razmjo, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC met separately the Belorussian SSR delegation, headed by first-deputy chairman of the State Committee for Planning of the Belorussian SSR, B. Mikitchenko, here today.

In the course of meeting, while governors of Konduz and Laghman were present, view were exchanged on the expansion and further developing of direct links of cooperation between the Belorussian SSR and Konarha and Laghman Provinces of Afghanistan, and the specific spheres for directing the Soviet aid to the Afghan provinces were determined.

Holds Talks With Najibullah

LD062150 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received this afternoon the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic deputy prime minister and head of the State Planning Committee. Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hakim and the governors of Laghman and Konar provinces were present. President Najibullah spoke with the delegation about economic assistance and the development of Laghman and Konarha provinces. They discussed other topics of interest, in particular the influence of the Belorussian SSR's assistance to these provinces in helping to realize the national reconciliation policy.

Amin Comments on Refugees, Relations With USSR
AU041002 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian
27 Feb 88 p 9

[Report by Gabor Miklos, NEPSZABADSAG correspondent in Kabul: "Local Report From Afghanistan, During the Countdown"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] So far, from the many people who have emigrated, relatively few have returned—about 3 million according to some people, 5

million according to others. I asked Hasan Sharq, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Committee for Refugee Affairs, about their fate and the importance of this issue. He was a famous politician, and deputy prime minister under President Daud, before the revolution.

So far, 116,000 emigrants have returned. More emigrants would also come, but they are not allowed. And it can hardly be expected that people who escaped to foreign countries would return to the war. If the several million people started to come home, would authorities be able to cope with them?

[Sharq] We have a plan—naturally, on paper only—to lead 1 million people back to their homes within 1 year. We should work on this problem because when peace is concluded and the Soviets withdraw from the country, the problem of the emigrants will become the real Afghan issue.

[Miklos] And who will support this financially?

[Sharq] We rely on international support and UN aid. The Soviet Union already contributes much to this, and I think that they themselves will have greater possibilities once they do not spend money on supporting troops. And consider this: Washington at present allocates \$600 million annually for "Afghan purposes." We will see if they are willing to finance peace, or only war.

For the time being, emigrants return home only in small groups. The transit accommodations in Kabul are mostly empty, only a few veiled women live in the comfortable and clean rooms. [passage omitted]

Deputy Prime Minister Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin is optimistic about Soviet-Afghan relations. He is not a party member, has high prestige in business circles, and is a devout Muslim. In his opinion, it is very important that the Soviets extend credit to develop Afghan private enterprises. Amin is an optimist. According to him, his business friends are also optimists, otherwise they would not invest their own capital in long-term ventures. Of course, Afghanistan is quite an undeveloped country, but it is very much open to all kinds of relations.

"If the West is at present concerned that Soviet-Afghan economic relations have become too active, then, please, the West can also come to the fore. They have a very liberal and flexible law on the establishment of mixed enterprises"—Amin says. (Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin was just getting ready to visit Hungary in the course of which he wants to make similar suggestions.)

I asked Amin about his opinion on the negotiations, and whether the Soviet troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan this year.

Amin is optimistic in this respect, too. He said the following: "The present obstacles and the demands for the immediate establishment of an interim government

are only excuses. We must sit down together. Examples of negotiations between parties which did not officially recognize each other can be found in the recent past. The 'seven' from Peshawar would now like to have a settled situation and they are disputing the legitimacy of our government and our elected president. But who elected them to speak on behalf of the Afghan people?

"We should reach an agreement on ending the bloody internecine war. Withdrawal is of essential interest to the Soviets. We are willing to compromise extensively. We have offered even the office of the prime minister. A coalition, of course, cannot be established on dictates, and the Republic of Afghanistan is strong enough to ensure that during the negotiations this will have to be considered. I think that people who really take the interests of the Afghan people into consideration should urge the establishment of coalition agreements. For the time being, however, the other side lacks the unity of political will required for this. The fact that we have again announced that the former king could play a role in the peace conference is a sign of our openness.

It is almost 2 March. Peace has come within reach. The withdrawal of the Soviet troops is not a problem any more, a requested timetable for their withdrawal was supplied, it is possible to establish a coalition government with the opponent forces, and peace can be concluded. Afghanistan could become a nonaligned Islamic country and maintain good relations with all its neighbors and with the Soviet Union and Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Amin Visits Hungary, Meets With Leaders

For reports on Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin's visit to Budapest and his activities, including talks with Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Jeno Vancsa, minister of agriculture and food, and his 4 March news conference, see the Hungary section of the 4 March East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Hatf Reads National Front Plenum Report LD070921 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0527 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 6, BAKHTAR—An extraordinary plenum of the Central Council of the National Front of Afghanistan was held here today with the participation of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan.

President Najibullah talked at the plenum which was held to discuss and to decide on the most historic issues.

Abdurrahim Hatif, president of the Central Council of National Front of Afghanistan, read the main report of the plenum. The logical growth of the process of national reconciliation which ratified the chosen path not only

increased the credibility of people's sovereignty but also promoted the prestige of Afghanistan at international forums, indicates the main report.

National Front as the largest political and social organization has taken an active part in the realization of the policy of national reconciliation adopted for the cause of peace, the report points out. All the councils of National Front all over the country have taken part in the work of the commissions of national reconciliation. The heads of these councils have meanwhile served as chairpersons of the commissions of national reconciliation.

The plenum also discussed organisational matters in the context of the Constitution and coalition government, and amendments were made in the Constitution of the Front. Formulation of a joint platform for the National Front was also discussed and decisions were made. The plenum approved the proposed amendments in the National Front Constitution.

The plenum passed a resolution and the message of National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan addressed to the fronts, social organisations, parliaments, governments and the peoples of the region and the world.

Rebels Attack Munitions Depot in Farah Province
LD070924 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Birjand, Khorassan Prov., March 7, IRNA—Afghan Muslim mujahidin pounded positions of government forces in Khak-e Safid, Farah province last week setting ablaze a munitions dump and a fuel tanker and killing and wounding several government troops.

Meanwhile the Afghan mujahidin shelled a military convoy along supply route of Khak-e Safid to Farah destroying two tanks and killing several of their personnel. Two Afghan Muslims were also martyred in the attack.

Bangladesh

Ershad View on State Religion Repudiated
BK080345 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The Awami League president, Sheikh Hasina, has repudiated President Ershad's view to declare Islam as the state religion of Bangladesh. Addressing a huge public meeting in Dhaka yesterday, she said 80 percent of the population are devout Muslims who do not require to learn the essence of religion from the government. She reiterated her resolve to carry on the movement for restoration of democracy and urged the people to observe the 24th of this month as black day.

Meanwhile, the government has released a journalist, Mr Faiz Ahmed, and president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Mr Shamsul Haq Chowdhury.

India

Families of Tehran Embassy Staff To be Evacuated
BK081301 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The government has decided to evacuate the families of the Indian Embassy staff in Tehran. This was in the wake of the recent escalation in the Gulf War. In a statement in the Lok Sabha today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said arrangements are being made to evacuate them on Thursday. Some families of the Indian community in the Iranian capital can also join them.

Regarding evacuation in Baghdad, the minister said the security and welfare of the families of our staff in Iraq is under constant review. He pointed out that the missile attacks currently going on between Iraq and Iran have resulted in heavy civilian casualties on both sides. Fortunately, Indian nationals are safe.

Mr Natwar Singh demanded the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Gulf conflict.

Further on Punjab Situation, Emergency Steps

President's Rule To Be Extended
BK071325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Government proposes to amend the Constitution in respect to emergency provisions in their application to Punjab. These amendments will apply only to Punjab, and the existing emergency provisions under Article 352 and other related articles of the Constitution will continue to apply in the rest of the country. This announcement came in an identical statement made in both houses of Parliament today. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, made the statement in the Rajya Sabha, while the minister of state, Mr Chidambaram, made it in the Lok Sabha.

It was also announced that the government proposes to introduce a Constitution amendment bill in the current session of the parliament to facilitate extension of president's rule in Punjab.

The statement said the governor of Punjab had assessed that there is no likelihood of the emergence of any effective, stable, or responsible government in the state committed to the cause of removing terrorism. The governor felt that the state legislative assembly's further continuance in suspended animation would be purposeless and futile. He, therefore, recommended dissolution of the assembly and the president issued the orders to that effect. The statement said that the governor had reported that one of the major hindrances in the effective working of the police and paramilitary forces is the interference from the members of the assembly.

Referring to the Karhisari village incident in which 33 people were killed and 45 injured, the statement said it is more reprehensible as it happened on the day the government set in motion the process of finding a solution to the Punjab problem by releasing the 5 head priests and 40 under-trials from Jodhpur jail.

Initiating the special discussion in the Lok Sabha, Mr Indrajit Gupta, CPI, described the release of five high priests, appointed by the panthic [Sikh religious body] committee, as legitimizing the very forces which were avowed supporters of Khalistan. Mr Gupta said compromise with such forces is a violation of all of (which) the government has given assurance in the past.

A ruling party member welcomed the Center's decision to release the five high priests. He expressed the hope that the priests will persuade the misguided youths to shun the path of terrorism and join the national mainstream. The debate is in progress.

Parties Voice Opposition

BK071610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Government today announced that it proposes to amend the Constitution regarding emergency provisions in their application to Punjab. These amendments will apply only to Punjab, and the existing emergency provisions under Article 352 and other related articles of the Constitution will continue to apply in the rest of the country. The announcement came in an identical statement made in both the houses of parliament. [passage omitted]

In the Lok Sabha, soon after the minister's statement, a special discussion followed. Initiating it, Mr Indrajit Gupta, CPI, criticized the dissolution of the Punjab assembly and the release of five head priests, which he described as legitimizing the very forces which were avowed supporters of Khalistan. He and other opposition members alleged that the steps taken by the Center all these years have encouraged the extremists, while undermining the moderates among the Akalis.

Refuting the criticism, ruling party members defended the release of the head priests saying that the government wants to create an atmosphere conducive to finding a political solution. The ruling party members rebutted the opposition charge that the Congress-I had engineered the split of the Akali Dal. They said it was the Akalis own lack of understanding of the situation and the struggle for power that led to the split.

Replying to the 4-hour debate, the minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, defended the release of the high priests, saying that it was a calculated risk taken by the government which may lead to a political solution of the Punjab problem. Assuring the members that the government had no intention to bypass parliament, he said such administrative decisions had to be taken

immediately, but the government took the first opportunity to come before parliament with all the facts. About the decision to release 40 under-trials from the Jodhpur jail, Mr Chidambaram said it was taken after carefully reviewing their records. There were 366 under-trial persons.

Ruling out immediate elections in the state, Mr Chidambaram said the time is not opportune for that. During president's rule, the government will do everything to stamp out terrorism, continue its efforts to find a lasting solution within the framework of the Constitution, and maintain law and order.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, reiterated that the government will not hesitate to take stringent measures to root out communalism, terrorism, and secessionist tendencies. He asserted that the government is determined to restore peace and confidence among the people in Punjab. The minister made these remarks in the Rajya Sabha when several members sought clarifications on his statement.

4 Killed, 2 Injured in Amritsar

BK071558 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Four persons were killed and two injured in different incidents in Punjab since last night. An official spokesman said two bullet-ridden bodies were found in Amritsar District last night. A shopkeeper was gunned down by terrorists in Mirich Gogra Mahal while the other was shot dead in Ratoka village of Amritsar District.

Police Inspector, 5 Others Killed

BK080335 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, six persons including a police inspector and a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier] were killed by terrorists in separate incidents last night. In Amritsar District, Inspector Dasaunda Singh and two of his close relations were killed when terrorists attacked his house in Sakira village. In another incident in Amritsar, one person was shot dead by terrorists in Kalinjra village. In Sangrur District, a CRPF jawan was killed and four others, including two jawans, were injured in Dhuri town when terrorists opened fire. In Patiala District, one person was shot dead in Mandi Gobindgarh.

President's Rule in Tamil Nadu Approved

BK081628 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Parliament has approved the imposition of president's rule in Tamil Nadu. The Rajya Sabha today approved a statutory resolution in this regard by a voice vote. The Lok Sabha had already passed the resolution. President's rule was imposed in the state on 30 January last. [passage omitted]

Gurkha Violence Continues in West Bengal
BK051509 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] In West Bengal, more incidents of violence have been reported from different parts of Darjeeling hill areas as the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front]-sponsored 40-day bundh [strike] entered the 26th day today. GNLF activists opened fire on the security convoy of the [West Bengal] minister of state for hill affairs, Mr Taman Dawa Lama, this evening while he was returning from (Miling) to Darjeeling. The security men returned the fire. No one was injured. The minister reached Darjeeling safely.

GNLF activists burned down a shop in the main Darjeeling market this morning and threw two bombs in different parts of the town. They bombed a forest office at Sukhiapukhri last night. The activists also fired five rounds at Lepong power house. One GNLF activist was killed in an exchange of fire with CRPF jawans [Central Reserve Police Force soldiers] at (Dhutia) last night. PTI reports say GNLF men also hurled several bombs at Chowk Bazaar and a school compound in Darjeeling and at different places in Kalimpong.

Cuban Vice President Discusses Ties With Leaders

Meets With Sharma 5 Mar
BK050910 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] The vice president of Cuba, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, called on the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, in New Delhi today. The two leaders, during the meeting lasting over half an hour, discussed matters of mutual interest. The talks also covered peace initiatives of the two superpowers, international cooperation for world peace, the situation in Central America, and the removal of apartheid in South Africa.

Calls On Venkataraman
BK051622 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] The vice president of Cuba, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, in New Delhi today. The meeting lasted half an hour. Earlier, Dr Rodriguez met the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma. Dr Sharma will host a banquet in honor of the visiting dignitary tonight.

Feted by Vice President
BK060349 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, has said India and Cuba have the potential to strengthen and diversify their bilateral relations. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the vice president of Cuba, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, in New Delhi last night, Dr

Sharma said both the countries can collaborate for mutual advantage in the best traditions of South-South cooperation. He pointed out that as members of the Nonaligned Movement, India and Cuba have been striving for a just international economic order. He expressed the hope that the visit of Dr Rodriguez will give a fillip to bilateral relations.

Delivers Castro Letter to Gandhi
BK071524 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] India and Cuba are to exchange high-level delegations to consider increasing of bilateral trade. This was decided at a meeting between the finance minister, Mr Tiwari, and the visiting Cuban vice president, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. Dr Rodriguez said the two countries can have cooperation in sugar production.

Earlier, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The discussions mainly focused on South-South cooperation and the situation in southern Africa. Mr Rodriguez also handed over a letter to Mr Gandhi from his president.

Janata Party To Unite With Lok Dal-A
BK051616 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] The Janata Party has formally decided to unite with Lok Dal-A led by Mr Ajit Singh. The decision was taken at the Janata Parliamentary Party board's meeting in New Delhi today. In a resolution passed at the meeting, the board welcomed the step taken by the party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar, for merger of the two parties with the name, symbols, and flag of the Janata Party. The parliamentary board also authorized Mr Chandra Shekhar to finalize the details of unification.

A party spokesman said the step is in continuation to a call given by the National Council of the Janata Party at its meeting in Bangalore in April last for the consolidation of the opposition.

Paper Assails Carlucci For Arming Pakistan
BK061530 Delhi PATRIOT in English
22 Feb 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Alibis for Conflict?"]

[Text] United States Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci has made another effort in the propaganda overkill he has planned to paint Pakistan as an imminent victim of India's aggressive designs. His latest report to the U.S. Congress in defence of his budget demands reads like a hair-raising adventure story with India—the villain of the piece—acquiring all manner of weapons to crush the poor lamb, junta-led Pakistan, unless the good Samaritans like Mr Carlucci of the Reagan administration are allowed to rush to the junta's aid with more weapons and cash. Hence he has insisted that the U.S. "expand our

strong security assistance and defence industrial relationship" with Pakistan. The U.S. Congress has been asked to believe that since China's manpower superiority counters India's advantage in armour in the power balance in the region, and hostile geography and climate precluded an early head-on collision between them, by inference India would be inclined to attack Pakistan. It is against this background that Mr Carlucci claimed that an "open conflict" between India and Pakistan "is always possible"—an alibi furnished in anticipation of presumably another conflict. What he has chosen to keep away in his assessment of the situation is the history of the past 40 years, during which period Pakistan got out of its domestic difficulties by committing repeated and blatant aggressions against India. The U.S. Defence Secretary must know that Pakistan was enabled to mount such massive aggressions with the U.S. weapons, supplied in full knowledge that these would be used against this country. It is however, a different matter that the junta in Pakistan was not always able to make the best use of the sophisticated weaponry it had received. Mr Carlucci, new to his job, is repeating tired, old shibboleths which not even Pakistani propagandists accept with any degree of seriousness.

But this is not an innocent exercise. It will mean, in plain language, immediate and large U.S. Defense Department orders for the weapon manufacturers who have, of late, been sending signals to the White House to warn that several thousand more would be added to the army of U.S. unemployed if there is any real cut-back in the manufacture of weapons for export. And hence the need to inveigle the U.S. Congress into accepting the make-belief.

General Ziaul Haq will not be far behind in making his voice ring in the corridors of Washington. He has already launched his part of the story by raking up the "problem" of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Of course, India has made it known to the Pakistani military that the only problem remaining is the specification of a time-frame within which Pakistan must vacate its 40-year old occupation of a third of Jammu and Kashmir territory. Mr Carlucci knows that if a settlement of the Afghanistan problem is secured, efforts will be needed to keep the junta in power in Islamabad. And that can be done only with massive doses of aid if the U.S. military presence in West Asia is to be successfully sustained with Pakistan remaining in Centcom.

Paper Says Missile Launch To Promote Arms Race
BK080905 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
27 Feb 88 p 8

[Editorial: "A Commendable Feat"]

[Text] Scientists, technologists, and workers associated with the Integrated Guided Missile Programme of the Defence Research and Development Organisation have done a commendable job in successfully designing, producing and testing India's first surface-to-surface missile,

the Prithvi. Their effort is specially commendable because the missile programme was started only in 1983. Since then the programme has also developed and tested the Nag anti-tank missile and the Akash and the Trishul surface-to-air missiles. With the addition of Prithvi, tested at Sriharikota on Thursday, India has moved up another rung on the ladder of self-reliance in this vital area. This is important because since April, 1987, the developed countries have severely restricted the export of large missiles and their components to Third World countries. The agreement, which was signed by the United States, France, West Germany, Italy, UK, Canada, and Japan requires an understanding from the importing country that it would not use the missile for nuclear purposes. This agreement was signed just after the Trishul was tested last year.

Whether or not the timing was an accident, as has been suggested in some quarters, India's newly-acquired capability will be seen as another threat by its neighbours, specially Pakistan. Declarations of peaceful motives, such as after the Pokhran [nuclear] test, will not carry much conviction because, simultaneously, India has acquired a nuclear submarine and the MiG-29. It is also preparing to buy a third aircraft carrier. Thus the technological success at Sriharikota, though laudable, entails political cost because it will prompt Pakistan to cry wolf, and the United States to heed that call. Jubilation over the launch should, therefore, be tempered with the thought that the feat also escalates the race for armaments on the subcontinent.

Domestically, the success of the missile, space and atomic programmes show that if our scientists are given a clear objective and provided with financial and other facilities, they can perform as well as scientists elsewhere. Things go wrong when research is subjected to bureaucratic control (and the intrigue that such control entails). The conditions which contributed to success of these programmes should be sought to be replicated in other government establishments engaged in research, development, and production. Should the effort succeed, the resultant increase in creativity across a wide front will be the real boon to the country and our people.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Interviewed on U.S. Aid to Iraq
LD072134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during an exclusive interview with our correspondent on Monday, referred to the resumption of the war of the cities and the Iraqi use of missiles and said: The missiles used by the Iraqis are the same Scud-B missiles that the Iraqis previously used against Dezful and other cities. However, this time the missiles have less destructive power. In order to increase the range of the missiles they clumsily tampered with these missiles—of course, not the Iraqis themselves, for the Iraqis are incapable of upgrading these missiles.

No doubt the major powers did this, such powers as the United States or France. By adding fuel to the (firing device) in order to increase the range, they had to reduce its explosive power.

In connection with the boost given to the arms supply of the Iraqi regime, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: When we got hold of several unexploded missiles and our experts investigated and analyzed them, it became clear that although the missiles were originally made in the USSR, most of the Eastern Bloc countries manufacture or assemble these missiles today. Therefore, Iraq can obtain them from other sources. Nevertheless, we see that Iraq has been firing these missiles at our cities over the past 4-5 years and we have always criticized the Soviet Union for doing this. Eventually, it became clear that this is not a new measure.

Elsewhere in his remarks the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council referred to the fact that we feel the main strategy of this new phenomenon has been defeated and its secondary strategy—the attack on the cities—is a repeat performance and will be defeated once again. He stressed: Our nation is determined to resist and we shall give our essential reply on the battlefield.

Speculates on Missiles' Origin

NC081031 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1730 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Interview with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, by unidentified correspondent on the "Resistance Until Victory" program on 7 March—recorded]]

[Text] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. This new action has a characteristic that Iraq's past attacks on cities lacked, which is that they are using missiles that reach Tehran. Both missiles and planes were used in the past. However, at that time they did not have a missile that could reach Tehran.

This time we think they are staging a new play, and it is not only Iraq [which has a role]. It is a program that was prepared a long time ago. More than a year ago, rumors started which said that Iraq had gained access to a missile and wanted to reach Tehran, a plan that would have a great impact on the war. This was propagandized at various times in order to worry our nation. Now the weapon, after much preparation, is being used. They thought that with this new strategy they could create a turning point in the war. However, they committed a big blunder. What could have caused alarm in our nation has completely lost its effectiveness now that it has taken place.

In the past, the Soviets sometimes obliged us by saying that they did not and have not supplied this long-range missile to Iraq. Western countries said the same thing.

The Iraqis always used these remarks as a weapon, and hoped that this would impact on the war. Now that they have used this missile, many things have been discovered. First, it has become clear to us that this is not a new missile. It is the same Scud-B missile that the Iraqis had previously fired at Dezful and at many of our other cities. However, the great destructive power of this missile had been untampered with and was the same missile that we too are using. Then the Iraqis tampered with this missile, which, of course, they could not have done on their own. Certainly, the big powers—the Americans, the French, and others—helped.

They clumsily tampered with this missile. They increased its fuel in order to increase its range. They had to reduce its explosive power, so they reduced the weight of the explosives from 800 kg to 160 kg. We discovered this by examining the unexploded missiles that we found here. They have reduced its explosive contents to one-fifth of its original capacity. Therefore, if this missile hits a target and explodes, it will be like a small bomb, whereas the original missile shattered windows as far away as 6 to 7 km and destroyed between 300 and 400 houses. We saw examples of this in Dezful and in other places, and we know this from our own missiles. As a result of the changes, they have created other faults in the missile which deprive the Scud-B of its effectiveness.

Meanwhile, they were not aware of our defensive capability, and fortunately, they still do not know. Our forces have been prepared to decrease the effectiveness of this missile in sensitive places. Tehran residents are witnessing the ineffectiveness of Iraq's missiles. We consider it too early to reveal details, but we will do so in the future. What has happened is that they have lost the weapon to which they had attached great hopes without making any impact on the outcome of the war. On the contrary, it has bolstered our resistance more.

In the beginning, we said that the Russians had given this new missile to Iraq, but this has been clarified for us. Clearly, this was not so; the missile is an ordinary missile that already existed. Of course, the missile is originally Russian. Generally speaking, the Scud missile is one that originated in Germany and was the V-2 missile built by Hitler, who used between 3000 and 3600 in his attacks on London. When Germany was conquered, the files on this missile fell into the hands of the Russians. Their scientists joined with the Americans, who completed the V-2 and now have advanced missiles. The Russians also completed the missile and now have the Scud and other missile types. Today's missiles are the same Scud-B missiles that were used 20 to 25 years ago; they are not something new.

[Correspondent] The mass media of arrogance has stated that the reason for Iraq's attack on the cities is the fact that Iran does not accept Security Council Resolution No 598. What is your opinion?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is chicanery, of course. We said at the Security Council that we do not reject the resolution. However, we agreed with the secretary general that the order of the resolution's articles should be altered; in other words, the aggressor should be identified first, and then we can go on to other issues. Iraq has not coordinated as much on the resolution as we have. Of course, one of their objectives may have been to pressure us to accept the resolution exactly as Iraq and its mentors want. However, this is impossible. This may have been their intention, one of their objectives. Yet, as I stated in answer to your first question [as heard], they had attached great hopes to the missiles.

[Correspondent] If Iraq does not end its attack on the cities, how far will the Islamic Republic's retaliatory acts go? What is Iran's military, defense, and missile capability to respond to these mischiefs?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is clear now that this new strategy has failed. We know that Iraq's missile capability is very limited now, and we have seen the extent of its effectiveness. Fortunately, with the experience that we have gained in defense, we are not in the least worried about these missiles. In previous phases, Iraq has failed and has had to stop its mischiefs, using one excuse or another, and we foresee that very soon it will have to stop its mischiefs. Iraq is now under great pressure from our fighting forces. We are constantly shelling about 20 Iraqi cities with our artillery. We are firing six to seven medium- and long-range missiles at Iraqi cities. Of course, our targets are primarily industrial centers.

This is more effective than firing at the people, because Iraq cares little for its people anyway. We are hitting military, industrial, and economic centers, whatever we think will be effective in the war. Naturally, the people are harmed too, unfortunately. Our planes have started hitting Iraq's cities and economic centers. When Iraq faces pressures domestically, in addition to the pressures being inflicted on it on the fronts, it will be weakened. We feel that their latest strategy has been defeated and that their secondary strategy—the attack on the cities—merely repeats past experiences and will soon end. Even if it does not, our nation is determined to resist, and we will give our essential answer at the battlefield.

[Correspondent] In the past the Soviet Union said it wanted the war to end. Now, with its continuing arms delivery to Baghdad, it is preventing an end to the war. How do you assess this contradictory policy?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course, we have our doubts about whether the world powers actually want the war to end. If the Soviet Union, the United States, France, or even Arab reaction want the war to end, Iraq is in their power. If they deprive Iraq of their support, it will have to surrender to justice. You see that in the Security Council also, the pressure is applied on us while no pressure is brought to bear on Iraq. As far as the delivery of arms is concerned, well, they are giving arms and

assistance to Iraq. However, as for the most recent, very hot contention—that the Russians may have given Iraq a new missile—after a number of unexploded missiles were found, investigated, and analyzed, our experts believe that even though the original missile was made in Russia, it is no longer exclusively Russian.

Most East Bloc countries assemble or manufacture this missile, and Iraq can gain access to it from other places too. Moreover, even if it did receive them from the Soviet Union, these were among the arms Iraq had from the beginning of the war. We have seen this missile used against us for the past 4-5 years. We have always criticized the Russians for doing this. This is nothing new.

Musavi Interviewed on Cabinet Session, Missiles
NC071207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Mar 88

["Text" of interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent in Tehran on 6 March—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, could you please tell us what issues were discussed at today's Cabinet session and what decisions were adopted?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Various issues were discussed, the most important one being the latest developments in the resumption of the war of the cities. These developments were examined to a certain extent. The general line of the decisions reached at today's meeting stresses that resistance and steadfastness will continue and that we will remain faithful to our slogan of fighting until the last person, last house, and last drop of blood. This spirit reflects the nature of the leader of the revolution, the people, and the government. The discussions examined the peoples' as well as the government's epicmaking activities, and their resistance and morale.

During the meeting it was decided that all issues should be tackled in a systematic and methodical manner whenever they arise. The Cabinet also discussed the services which the government is obliged to render and is rendering. The element of cooperation and assistance within our dear and revolutionary people was stressed. Individual ministries reviewed and debated these issues. In short, all of the discussions at the meeting focused on anticipating all eventualities so that, God willing, in concert with all the fighters at the fronts, we too on this front can plunge the Saddam regime into despondency and destruction.

Another issue which may be considered political also was discussed in this regard, namely, the link between these attacks and the pressure being exerted by international organizations. In any case, our policy is inspired by our people and the combatant forces. It is a message written in our martyrs' blood which emphasizes that the

government should continue to support our fighters until the aggressor is crushed. The government should provide all that is necessary to achieve this. All kinds of false hopes that may be harbored by the [words indistinct] and the oppressive powers, that their threats will succeed in making our nation succumb or in extorting concessions from the Islamic Republic are, I wish to stress, utterly unfounded and baseless.

Whenever such a situation arises, we find the fronts are inundated with our forces, who are prepared to deal blows against Saddam. Naturally, a change in the people's lives prepares them for confronting these changes. This is an accepted fact in a psychological war and a result of the Saddam regime's bestial attacks. In short, the crux of the matter is that this steadfastness and [30-second break in transmission].

The people should not be subservient. A war has been imposed upon this country in an attempt to eliminate the independence which has been attained at the expense of martyrs' blood. Therefore, they should not permit the oppressive powers to have an opportunity to impose a forced peace on them. These sentiments prevail in our nation, and the government acts accordingly. The news that we have received about the noble people of Tehran and outlying districts and in other places is that they have maintained their morale. The government also remains steadfastly at their side. It would be appropriate to mention in this connection that the executive system and the executive (?personnel) are functioning in an effective manner, praise be to God. The efforts of the executive machinery, even though the 'Id [Nowruz] is near—in a way it is the holiday season—will always remain at the service of the people. With the assistance of our valiant, dear, and resistant employees, our Hezbollah forces, which are present at various levels of the executive machinery, will always be at the service of the people.

As regards the war, we shall respond to each blow with a more powerful blow. The cure for such attacks and onslaughts is to deal a more crushing response. The answer to such brutal attacks is reciprocal attacks. The revolution has taught us to act according to this spirit. Whenever we have been subjected to aggression, whenever we have attacked [as heard], whenever we have had any objections, whenever we have confronted reactive gestures, we have (?won). The same spirit that permeates the fronts has now also penetrated all levels of our social life. It is natural that we should now have the same morale.

The Saddam regime should be assured that as always, when it has tried these tactics and emerged with its face blackened in disgrace and after it has sustained losses, it will once again suffer a blow to its face at the hands of our nation, our fighting forces, and our experts. It will find itself degraded to an even greater extent than before. If the Saddam regime and its mentors are optimistic and believe that this is the means of its salvation, I would like

to state that this process that it has initiated, this crime that it has started will, God willing, hasten its destruction. As a result of this, the realization of the final outcome will be expedited due to our fighters' struggle.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

UK Press Cited on Disturbances in Soviet Union
LD061116 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT
6 Mar 88

[Text] London, March 6, IRNA—Moscow's late admission that at least 31 people were killed in disturbances in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait last Sunday is seen as underlining the difficulties the Soviet Union faces from its ethnic minorities.

TASS gave the first official death toll in the Muslim city Friday night, nearly twice the total given by dissident sources and another 70 people are thought to have been injured.

Further unrest has been reported to have spread into Kirovabad, another Muslim city in Soviet Azerbaijan, but Moscow reportedly has imposed another news blackout and the full extent of the disturbances is yet to be revealed.

The Soviet Union is made up of 15 republics and 98 administrative regions and encompasses more than a hundred ethnic groups which form over half its 828 million inhabitants.

Muslims by far make up the largest religious community and are seen posing the greatest threat.

The London TIMES reported Saturday that the "rarely mentioned nightmare" in Moscow is the long-term prospects that the Muslim population of the Soviet Union will gradually gain numerical dominance.

It suggested that up to a third of the Soviet Army comes from Central Asia, where the majority of Muslims live, and that this could account why Moscow had increasing problems in getting conscripts to fight in Afghanistan.

Estimates vary for the Muslim population in Soviet Central Asia, but according to the London GUARDIAN this week, if all Muslims in the region were put together "the security apparatus would be confronted with a mob of 50 million."

The daily found the situation in Muslim Central Asia different from Azerbaijan which shares common religious, cultural ties with Iranian Azerbaijan, but believed that the "intense, covert interest there in what is happening among fellow Muslims in Iran and Afghanistan, must be of acute concern to Mr Gorbachev."

"The zeal with which Soviet policy-makers act to suppress the aspirations of the mujahidin is hard to reconcile with the propaganda that Muslims in the Soviet Union are free," it said.

It found that Muslims in the Soviet Union "lack faith" in Moscow's reforms and said that for years they had resisted efforts to promote Marxism over Islam.

Women reportedly have yet to extensively return to wearing hijab but daily prayers and other tenets of Islam are said to be widely practiced in Muslim lands in the Soviet Union.

A major concern adding to Moscow's fears about its Muslim community is that the Central Asian states are still poor, and have a per capita income well below the Soviet national average, which can add to any unrest.

Commentary on Shots Fired at U.S. Helicopters
LD071318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1108 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Yesterday two U.S. helicopters were confronted with intense fire from the Islamic forces and were forced to flee immediately after their intrusion into our country's territorial waters. Following media reports, U.S. officials admitted that the incident had taken place.

The intrusion of the U.S. helicopters into our country's territorial waters occurred when the Islamic Republic of Iran has already declared its policy of confronting and resisting any aggression. However, this is not the first time that U.S. helicopters have violated our country's borders, although on every occasion the intense fire of the Islamic forces has forced them to flee. Undoubtedly, from now on any intrusion will be dealt with as resolutely as before. Furthermore, it is quite clear that incursions of this type have been carried out without any reservations and if continued will result in awkward and undesirable consequences for the Reagan administration. These consequences will be much wider and more destructive than those following the intrusion of the U.S. forces into Lebanon.

The presence of the U.S. forces, as has repeatedly been discussed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, has plunged the region into a crisis, along with its so-called safeguarding of international shipping lanes. The Islamic Republic has always noted that it would not pay tribute to alien forces. As far as Iran is concerned, any intrusion into the Islamic Republic's territorial waters by alien forces is viewed as a hostile action. All necessary steps will be taken to eliminate the aggression, as before.

Missile Attacks, Bombings, Operations Continue

Missile Hits Baghdad TV Station
LD060802 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT
6 Mar 88

[Text] Ahvaz, March 6, IRNA—An Iranian missile hit the studios of Iraq's Channel 1 television in Al-Saliahiyah near Al-Tahrir Square at 21:28 GMT Saturday, cutting off the station's news service.

Channel 2 television in Baghdad—monitored here—continued uninterrupted, but its announcer did not offer an exclamation [as received] on the unexpected interruption of telecasting activities of Channel 1.

Jets Bomb Iraqi Installations
LD071124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] The Armed Forces Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports that in reply to some of the crimes committed by the merciless rulers of Baghdad in attacking our cities' residential districts, the proud pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out a successful extra-territorial operation and heavily bombed military and economic installations in the city of Al-Mawsil situated 170 km inside Iraqi territory at 0810 this morning. All fighter bombers returned safely to their bases after the operation.

IRGC Fires Missile at Al-Mawsil
LD071622 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—An Iranian surface-to-surface missile was fired at a military center in Al-Mawsil, the capital of Iraq's Dahuk Province, at 18:36 hours local time (15:06 GMT) Monday by the missile unit of the Air Force of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

The missile was fired at Al-Mawsil in retaliation for the continuing Iraqi attacks on civilian areas and medical centers in Iran.

Communique No 3,134
LD071729 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters pounded Iraqi economic and military centers in Al-Mawsil, Dahuk Province. This morning in retaliation for attacks on Iran's residential areas. All planes returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy, the 3134th Joint Staff Communique reported here today.

The communique said key installations in the Iraqi cities of Basra, 'Ali al-Gharbi, 'Ali al-Sharqi, Khanaqin, Bani-mil, Halwah, Naft Khaneh, Chia Sorkh [placename as received], Duh Shaykh, Maydan, Mandali and Al-Sulaymaniyah came under missile and artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

Naval forces of the Islamic Republic on their routine patrol mission in the southern waters searched five cargo ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday, but allowed them to sail on since no suspicious cases were observed.

All Iraqi activities throughout the war fronts were checked and suppressed by Iranian tank and mortar fire, which also inflicted heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops in Panjwin, Mehran, Eynkhosh and Nahr 'Anbar operational theaters.

Artillery fire of the Muslim combatants forced two Iraqi patrol groups to flee when they attempted to approach Iranian positions in Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar operational regions. Some casualties and losses were also inflicted on the enemy by Iranian gendarmerie forces.

An Iraqi pilot whose plane was shot down by Iranian fighters during a dogfight in western parts, was captured by Muslim forces, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Missile, Air Attacks

LD071740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] The aggressive Iraqi regime, in continuation of its crimes, launched air raids and missile attacks on Tehran, Arak, Hamadan, and Bakhtaran last night and today. As a result, a number of our compatriots were either martyred or wounded and several residential units were damaged. Due to the enemy's barbaric raids on Tehran, 30 of our compatriots were martyred and more than 100 others, mainly women and children, were wounded. Most of the wounded were treated as outpatients. According to this report, the warmongers ruling Iraq during the past 24 hours opened artillery fire on Marivan and nearby villages. In this beastly shelling, people's houses were damaged, one compatriot was martyred, and several others were wounded.

The intruding enemy planes today violated the airspace of Esfahan, Sanandaj, Susangerd, and Khorramabad, but, thanks to the timely fire of the air defense units stationed in these regions, the enemy planes were forced to flee.

IRGC Fires Missile at Baghdad

LD072141 Tehran IRNA in English 2139 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—An Iranian surface-to-surface missile was fired at an important military center in the Iraqi capital at 00:30 hours in the midnight Monday (21:00 GMT).

The missile fired by the Air Force unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), was in retaliation for recent Iraqi attacks on civilian quarters in Iran and the massacre of innocent children, women and old men.

A statement issued by the IRGC's General Headquarters said Iran's retaliatory attacks on Iraq will powerfully continue.

'Several' Killed by Missile

LD072243 Tehran IRNA in English 2241 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA—Another Iraqi surface-to-surface missile hit a residential area in Tehran at 01:17 local time Tuesday (21:47 GMT Monday). According to early reports several civilians were martyred and wounded and a church was damaged in the attack.

Missile Hits Residential Area

NC080556 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Zionist Iraqi regime shelled a residential area in Tehran this morning with missiles. As a result, a number of our compatriots were wounded and some houses were damaged.

IRGC on Shelling Iraqi Target

NC080556 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 8 Mar 88

["Text" of statement issued by the IRGC General Staff]

[Text] In the name of the Almighty. In answer to the crimes by the Zionist regime ruling Baghdad in attacking residential areas in our country, at 0030 today, Tuesday, [2200 GMT Monday] one surface-to-surface missile was fired by the IRGC Air Force missile unit at an important Iraqi military center in Baghdad. The firing of missiles at military-industrial centers in Iraqi cities, with the exception of the four safe cities, will continue with power and magnitude, and by continuing their retaliatory acts the fighters of Islam will make the criminal rulers of Baghdad regret their savagery.

IRGC Fires 25th Missile at Iraq

LD081056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The IRGC General Staff has issued a communique, stating: In retaliation for yesterday's missile attacks on Tehran's residential districts by the criminal enemy, which martyred and wounded a number of our compatriots, the fighters of the missile unit of the IRGC Air Force at 0103 today fired its 25th surface-to-surface missile at an important military center of the enemy in the Iraqi city of Al-'Amarah.

The IRGC General Staff once again stressed in this communique: The forces of Islam will continue their retaliatory and deterrent measures against military and economic centers of Iraqi cities, except the four safe cities, until the criminal rulers of Baghdad halt their evil deeds.

Police Chief on Security

LD071834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1230 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Following the missile attacks of the Zionist Iraqi regime on residential areas and in order to provide greater security in bombed areas, the police forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have added 250 foot patrol groups to the security forces of the Tehran police. In an exclusive interview with an IRNA correspondent this morning, the chief of police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in announcing the above, also described the programs of the police forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in providing greater safety and protection to those areas hit by missiles.

He said: With full mobilization, the police forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are capable of confronting any problem and can provide for the security needs of the city of Tehran. With the help of all its personnel, the police are at the service of the people 24 hours a day. However, in order to make the best use of our forces and capabilities, we ask the people to refrain from gathering in the areas hit by missiles.

The police chief added: By making use of all our capabilities we have been able to place a powerful emergency force at the disposal of the civilian elements of the police so that, with our extensive presence in the society, we will be able to protect people's property and security. He added: At the moment, we are functioning at three times our normal force, and we have prepared extensive plans so that we can make use of the strong security forces in the streets and areas hit by missiles, particularly as some of our fellow citizens have been forced to leave their homes due to psychological or physical problems. We have sufficient forces available for protecting vacated houses or shops and for safeguarding people's property.

The police chief added: In the past we have used motorized patrol units but at the moment we are also sending foot patrol units to various streets of the town so that we can provide greater protection for people's property and houses. The chief of the police of the Islamic Republic of Iran added: We ask the people to inform their neighbors of the condition of their houses, so that if an incident takes place, the relief forces can more easily carry out their work. They should also refrain from collecting and storing flammable items. If they leave their houses they should inform their neighbors and their local police station so that police patrol units can keep an eye on their property.

In conclusion, he asked the people to facilitate the movement of cars and ambulances for the injured by not gathering in the places hit by missiles, thus preventing further casualties.

69 Ba'thist 'Agents' Captured

LD061345 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT
6 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Iraqi Kurdish combatants have killed scores of Ba'thist agents and captured more than 69 others during several operations over the past few days.

Announcing the above today, Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) irregulars added that peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in cooperation with Kurdish peshmergas from Kirkuk branch infiltrated the northern city of Irbil, capturing a Ba'thist security officer and 14 security guards.

During another operation, the headquarters said, KDP peshmergas destroyed four government tanks and several military vehicles on Batufeh-Zakhu road, Dahuk Province, killing or wounding scores of enemy soldiers and capturing 54 local Ba'thist agents.

Commentary Links Superpowers With Iraqi Attacks

NC050919 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "The Unmasking of Infidels' Visage and Iranian Nation's Epicmaking"]

[Text] As has been reported in the news, the Iraqi regime resumed its crimes when it fired a missile at Tehran yesterday afternoon after a 24-hour lull. The Iraqi regime feels it is in a vulnerable position with no way out of its predicament despite all of the military, economic, and propaganda assistance. Now that it finds itself helpless and impotent before the able Islamic fighters, the Iraqi regime has resorted to launching missiles and bombing residential areas. It considers these actions as the only way to ensure its salvation from this self-created nemesis.

That regime is experimenting with this tactic even though it has attempted this before on numerous occasions and tasted the defeat in all cases. Therefore, it seems that the powers of world oppression now wish to take revenge on the great Iranian nation—a nation which has aroused the furor of the leaders of arrogance with years of selfless resistance and defense of their Islamic ideals. When a Soviet-made missile is fired on the instructions of the United States, by the hands of an ally of the Zionists, we can gauge the depth of the conspiracy and the extent of the malice harbored by world oppression toward the Muslim Iranian nation.

The fact that the Muslim Afghan nation sees its aspirations and hopes mirrored in the Islamic Republic, and does not forsake its holy struggle, and the fact that the heroic Palestinian nation sees the Islamic movement and the (?emulation) of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the sole means of its liberation, has instilled anxiety and indignation in world oppressors. This is also because the Muslim Lebanese nation, armed with its faith and ambition and by (?emulating) the Islamic Republic of Iran, succeeded in exterminating the armed-to-the-teeth Zionist forces, from Lebanon in disgrace. World oppressors are also anxious and indignant because U.S. warships ran aground in the Persian Gulf in humiliation and ignominy.

In short, world oppression is anxious and indignant because the Muslim Iranian nation, with its reliance on Islam and its embracing martyrdom, has been the source of all of the developments in the region in the past decade, and is the reason that the interests of the world-devouring powers spearheaded by the United States have been endangered. The United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union—in a word, oppression and reaction—have manifested their campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the form of a war between the Islamic Republic and the Zionist Iraqi regime. Who today would believe that the war between Iran and Iraq is merely a war between the Islamic Republic and the Iraqi regime?

The oppressors and infidels are at the fronts poised against the Muslim Iranian nation's hallowed struggle. The shakylks of Kuwait and Hijaz are supplying the Iraqi regime with dollars, the Soviet Union and France are providing its military needs, and Great Britain is catering to its chemical weapons and propaganda needs. The United States, which has issued instructions for the aggression against Islamic Iran and which is bolstering Iraq financially and with propaganda, is searching for political and military means to save Iraq's filthy existence from destruction. The Soviet Union places missiles at its disposal, the United States issues instructions for their firing, and Great Britain lends its blessings. Does this mean anything but an expansion of the infidels' fronts against the Islamic revolution of Iran?

With its 9 years of resistance and struggle against the enemies of Islam, the Muslim nation of Iran clearly understands the sensitivity of its present circumstances. Consequently, it has prepared itself to make the domineering powers repent once again, to humiliate the propaganda monopolies of the world, and to teach the Zionist regime a major lesson. The Iranian Muslim nation lauds the Islamic fighters and officials for their determination and steadfastness in their retaliation. It calls on the able Islamic fighters to deal consecutive blows and to give a (?crushing) response to the powers of oppression on the battlefronts and thus, to roll up the scroll of the Iraqi Zionist regime.

Commentary Links USSR With Missile, Afghanistan
NC081255 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0715 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" program]

[Text] The Zionist regime ruling Baghdad has recently resumed its crimes and mischiefs. The Zionists ruling Iraq have started the war of cities at a time when the usurpers of Jerusalem have reached the zenith of their baseness against the general uprising by the Palestinian Muslims. Actually, the attack on our residential areas and the missile attacks on Tehran by the Baghdad warmongers can be described as a helpless reaction by world imperialism and international Zionism to the culmination of the Islamic revolution of the Muslim and heroic Palestinian nations.

Because it is aware of the close relation between the Palestinians' anti-Zionist movement and Iran's Islamic Revolution, as well as of the common nature of the two anti-arrogant movements, world arrogance is futilely trying—by attacking our cities through the Ba'thist regime—to find a way to save the Zionists, who have usurped Jerusalem. The world-devourers of the East and the West should know that neither will the heroic and risen Palestinian people give up the fight because of the savage tortures by the Zionists, nor will the Muslim and brave Iranian people surrender to the bullying of Zionist Saddam.

The great Iranian nation is once again witnessing cooperation and coordination between the two superpowers of the East and the West in order to undermine the Islamic Revolution. The Iranian people, particularly the resistant people of Tehran who have recently been the target of the strongest and most unprecedented air and missile attacks by the Zionist criminals of Baghdad, have strongly become convinced of the compatibility of Washington and Kremlin policies. In the opinion of the martyr-nurturing and martyr-seeking Iranian nation, the delivery of surface-to-surface missiles by the Russians to the madmen ruling Baghdad is a futile attempt to make up for the disgraceful defeats they have suffered from the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries.

The Russians who, after 8 years of suppression and massacre, had to kneel to the determination of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries, aimed at the chests and hearts of the Iranian nation while coordinating with the world-devouring United States in a bid to make up for their disgraceful defeat. Our resistant people will render useless the new plots hatched by the superpowers of the East and West.

'Propaganda' Distorting Soviet Approach to War
LD072017 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers
in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Yesterday as the result of a premeditated plan a number of excited elements attacked the premises of the Soviet Embassy in Tehran and that country's consulate

in Esfahan. These groups, who were organized by the ruling reactionaries to protest the delivery of missiles used by Iraq in the war of the cities by the Soviet Union, began to move. While the Soviet Government has officially denied the delivery of any kind of missiles to Iraq, the ruling circles in the Islamic Republic, with their anti-Soviet and anticommunist motives, tried to make use of these vile propaganda efforts for the sake of their reactionary and warmongering goals and for the sake of distorting the [words indistinct] and peace-loving approach of the Soviet Union toward the Iran-Iraq war.

In the midst of the war of the cities and the repeated bombardment of the cities of our country, the criminal leaders of the Islamic Republic are trying, by means of anti-Soviet propaganda, to divert the thoughts of the bereaved people from the vile and warmongering role of the Islamic Republic in the intensification of these calamities, and to channel their antiwar energies in different directions.

Farhadi Cables UNESCO on Iraqi 'Crimes'
NC081116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Mr Farhadi, minister of higher education and culture and chairman of the UNESCO committee in Iran, has sent a cable to the UNESCO director general criticizing the silence on the part of international circles on the Iraqi regime's crimes against the Iranian people and Iran's ancient culture. He asserted that silence by responsible international circles over the savage acts by the regime ruling Iraq will result in an unfavorable future for mankind, a future in which war will be among the (?major rules) governing mankind and in which human civilization regress.

In his cable to the UNESCO director general, the minister stated: The organization which your excellency heads has declared this as the year to honor Hafez, the great Iranian poet and scholar, and you asked members to pay homage to this great scholar of the world on the 600th anniversary of his death. While the silence continues among international organizations and forums over the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist regime of Iraq, (?we cannot be sure whether) by the time you receive this message the tomb of Hafez will not also have been destroyed by the (?blind) and irresponsible air and missile attacks by the aggressive Iraqi regime.

The cable also says: The eyes of all the world's cultural, scientific, and educational spheres have turned to you to see what steps you will take concerning this serious danger threatening Iran's ancient land and the annihilation of one of the world's most ancient and valuable cultures.

Mujahidin Head Holds Meetings With Leaders

Velayati Replies to Rabbani
LD051859 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] In reply to a message from Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan, about

Iraq's criminal actions in attacking cities, a message was sent to him from Foreign Minister Velayati.

The message reads: The recent acts of aggression by the Iraqi regime reflect the anxiety of world arrogance about the proud struggles of the Islamic ummah, from occupied Palestine to occupied Afghanistan. There is no doubt, that by relying on the unlimited power of God Almighty, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its decisive course of action until arrogance's plots are totally wiped out and the holy goals of the ummah of the Islamic Republic of Iran to defend Islam and the interest of the Islamic ummah are attained. The fresh crimes of the Saddam regime have made us more adamant in wanting to punish the aggressor.

The message also emphasizes the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the struggles of the Afghan nation in their jihad for the freedom in the Islamic country of Afghanistan.

Rabbani Denounces Geneva Talks
LD052150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan, took part in a gathering of Afghan refugees and emigrants in the Imam Khomeyni Mosque in Tehran and spoke about Islam's global revolution, particularly in occupied Palestine. Condemning Iraq's savage missile attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he referred to the Afghan issue, saying: The fate of the Muslim Afghan people will be determined by that country's Muslim people and their true representatives, who are the Muslim mujahidin. Their destiny will not be determined outside Afghanistan by the superpowers.

He described the Geneva conference as a plot to enslave the Muslim people of Afghanistan and said it is doomed to failure. He added: The Russians must leave Afghanistan and the mujahidin will not lay down their arms until the last Soviet soldier has left.

Stressing the fact that East and West are acting in unison in order to subvert the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan and bring to power some corrupt elements, he asked all those who have placed themselves alongside the puppet regime to leave the ranks of the enemy as soon as possible and join the mujahidin. He emphasized that those who join the mujahidin will be forgiven but those who remain with the enemy will commit an unforgivable sin.

Rabbani Received by Khamene'i
LD062054 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT
6 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Leader of the Jamiyat-e Islami (Islamic Association) of Afghanistan Burhanuddin Rabbani today condemned Iraq's barbaric attacks on Iran's residential areas and termed them as "signs of Baghdad's obvious weakness to confront the combatant Iranian nation".

Rabbani made the remarks in a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i here today, where he expressed deep condolence over the martyrdom of Iranian children, women, youth and old people due to Ba'thist attacks. "The Iranian people's spirit of resistance and devotion has further motivated Afghan Muslims to fight the enemies of Islam," he stressed.

In response President Khamene'i referred to the long struggle of the Afghan people against Islam's enemies and said such struggles finally bore fruit and the relentless jihad waged by the Afghans forced the enemy to retreat despite all its massive political, military and propaganda efforts.

"This is the fulfilment of Allah's promise," said the president.

He added that victory of the Afghan people is a tribute to their valour and resistance. However, he cautioned the Afghan people to beware of the hostilities of foreign countries and superpowers.

The president urged committed Afghan Muslim combatants to keep their unity on the basis of Islam which he said is the only way to protect Afghanistan's independence and determine a bright future for this Muslim country.

At the end of the meeting President Khamene'i sent his warm greetings to the Afghan mujahidin, whom he termed as "the only spokesmen of the Afghan nation".

Meets With Mo'ayyeri

NC070636 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] The leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan, Burhanuddin Rabbani, met with Mr Mo'ayyeri, the deputy prime minister, yesterday evening and discussed the Afghanistan issue and the Geneva talks. During this meeting, the leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan expressed his sincere gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's categorical position on resolution of the Afghanistan issue and the Iranian officials' efforts in this regard.

The deputy prime minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is not based on positions commonly prevailing in the world, but on Islamic principles. On this basis, despite all the pressures, it has neither faltered with regard to its principled position on the Afghanistan issue nor retreated.

Afghan Group Meets With Khamene'i

LD071916 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT
7 Mar 88

["Afghan Mujahidin on Threshold of Important Stage, Says President"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i received members of Afghanistan's Islamic Coalition Council here Monday. A member of the coalition strongly condemned the brutal Iraqi attacks on Iranian residential areas.

On the ongoing tenth Geneva conference on Afghanistan as well as previous talks held in this regard, he said any future government in his homeland should be an Islamic one and in line with the Islamic ideals of the Afghan people.

In response, President Khamene'i termed formation of Afghanistan's Islamic Coalition Council as a significant development in the world political scene that would influence the fate of that Muslim country. Mujahidin have entered an important stage of the Afghanistan situation, he added.

Because, the president continued, Afghan mujahidin through their heroic resistance have proved to a big power, which intruded into Afghanistan several years ago, that it can never achieve whatever it had sought in that Muslim country. [sentence as received]

The reason the Islamic Republic has been able to stand against the superpowers without any damage to its fundamental principles, is that Iran staunchly adheres to its declared principles in the world's political scene.

Khamene'i Receives Martyrs' Families

LD070745 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday received a group of families of martyrs from provincial cities with their deputies in the Majlis (Parliament).

The president praised resistance of the Iranian people and their determination in safeguarding achievements of the Islamic revolution.

Referring to pressures exerted on Iran by the superpowers he said they want to impose the idea on other Muslims that the Islamic movement will not succeed.

The Iranian people, he stressed, will continue to resist bravely despite all the difficulties they are facing and the superpowers will fail in defeating them.

On the Iraqi-imposed war and escalated Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities he said these cowardly acts were signs of Iraqi regime's despair. The president hoped that with the help of God Iran will deal a decisive blow on the Iraqi regime.

Khamene'i Attends IRGC University Graduation
LD070817 Tehran IRNA in English 0654 GMT
7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday inspected Imam Husayn (AS) University of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and attended its first graduation ceremony.

During the three-hour inspection of the compound which included an advanced computer center, the president stressed further improvement of educational and scientific standards at the university. He also inaugurated the library and information bank of the university.

In a brief report, the chancellor of the two years old university said it has some 800 students in 12 different fields ranging from military subjects to engineering, management and medicine related subjects.

Stressing importance of such educational centers for the country and the role of the IRGC, the president said the university promises a good prospect.

President Khamene'i said the idea of imposing an arms embargo on Iran and Iraqi missile attacks on Iranian cities is only to press Iran. But he reiterated that such pressures would not yield any result because the Iranians have already proved they are a resistance people.

Pakistan

Parties' Conference on Afghanistan Ends
BK061644 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The 2-day conference of political leaders convened by the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, to consider the Afghanistan issue in view of the latest developments ended in Rawalpindi this afternoon. A press statement issued at the end of the conference said all the sessions of the conference were held in a cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding. It expressed gratification that all the participants endeavored to frankly express their respective points of view, recommending solution of the Afghan problem in the context of the Geneva proximity talks.

The prime minister once again expressed his gratitude to the leaders of all the participating parties for furnishing him with their valuable views which will be given very careful thought by his government. He assured that these views will be weighed properly before making any final decision on

this very vital national issue. The prime minister reiterated his previous assurance that Pakistan's national interest will weigh supreme with him and his government in coming to a decision on the Afghan issue.

Talking to newsmen at the end of the conference, the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, observed that it was for the first time that political leaders gathered at a single platform and that in itself is a great success. He said each and every political leader was given full time to express his point of view at the conference.

The minister for information and broadcasting, Kazi Abdul Majid Abid, in a brief chat with newsmen, said such a conference has been held after about 10 years. He described it as a good augury for consolidation of democracy. He said it was felt that similar meetings should be held as and when needed to discuss issues of national importance.

Junejo Reiterates Position

BK071620 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] In Peshawar today, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said that the final decision on Afghanistan will be made in light of the debate in Parliament, discussions with the political leaders, and the aspirations of the people. He was addressing Provincial Assembly members, chairmen of district councils and municipal committees, and people from various walks of life in the NWFP. He said the valuable opinions of the people will be carefully and seriously considered by his government and national interests will be given primary importance when making decisions.

The prime minister said he is visiting NWFP first because this province has made many sacrifices for the Afghanistan problem and has given asylum to more than 2 million Afghan refugees. He said he will also visit Baluchistan, Sind, and the Punjab to explain the issue to the people. Mohammad Khan Junejo said that only Pakistan had adopted a principled position on the Afghanistan issue and there is no change in her position because she firmly believes that only a peaceful solution will establish a durable peace in the region.

Pakistan's position was appreciated not only by the United Nations but also by many international organizations. He said Pakistan desires the establishment of a government in Afghanistan acceptable to the Afghan people in order to pave the way for peace in that country and to ensure the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland with dignity and honor. The prime minister said success for the Afghan people in their struggle is near. He paid glowing tribute to the people of NWFP for rendering timely help to the Afghan refugees.

In their addresses, Federal Minister Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak and Chief Minister Arbab Jahangir Khan, shed light on the background of the Afghan issue.

Earlier, people from various walks of life, including National Assembly members, religious scholars, counselors, lawyers, journalists, and labor leaders presented their views on the Afghanistan issue. The prime minister has since returned to Rawalpindi.

Paper Assails Indian Leaders' Statements
BK071515 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
26 Feb 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Why This Bellicosity?"]

[Text] The recent spate of threatening statements by Indian leaders has naturally caused some concern here. What has Islamabad done to invite this verbal volley from across the border? It is India which has refused to honour its commitment on Kashmir, made sneaking inroads in Siachen, and is lobbying hard on Capitol Hill to block whatever military assistance Pakistan is getting from the U.S., which in any case is the bare minimum for the country's defence needs. Pakistan has a long list of genuine grievances against India, yet it is the latter that has always resorted to sabre-rattling and even taken to arms to "teach us a lesson." As a matter of fact no small state has got a rougher treatment from its bigger neighbour than Pakistan has at the hands of India.

Islamabad cannot shrug off Indian President Venkataraman's highly provocative statement reminding us that in Sind we have a vulnerable spot to look after. What gives a sinister touch to his comments is the fact that he was addressing a joint session of Parliament. It could thus be taken as a policy statement foreshadowing the possible pattern of future events. It would seem that the sudden escalation in the activities of Sikh militants has made the Indian leadership very jittery. The East Punjab crisis is of India's own making and it will persist as long as the hard core of Congress leadership and the Sikhs in general are not prepared to bury the hatchet and make a new beginning. There is no way that Pakistan can benefit from the East Punjab crisis. And in any case small states like Pakistan cannot afford to interfere in the affairs of their bigger neighbours. It is always the other way round.

Equally significant is the Indian Foreign Office's reaction to President Ziaul Haq's recent reiteration of the Kashmiris right to self-determination. India's flagrant violation of its international commitment gives an idea of how much value the "big brother" attaches to justice and fair play. It is India's hypocrisy and a consuming desire to dominate its smaller neighbours that has kept the pot boiling in the Subcontinent. It has once again been encouraged in its hegemonic pursuits by the super-powers' acknowledgement of its "peace-keeping" role in Sri Lanka. And to cap it all, the induction of Soviet-built nuclear submarines in its Navy has given a frightening new dimension to its already massive arms build-up. India is a difficult neighbour to live with. It has cashed in on our weaknesses before and will do so in future if we

offer it an opportunity. Pakistan must therefore put its house in order to be able to meet the mounting challenges from its neighbour with the necessary confidence.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Said 'Growing Increasingly Desperate'
BK080839 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0730 GMT 8 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 Mar (LANKA PUWATH)—The LTTE is growing increasingly desperate over its repeated failure to reach negotiating table in New Delhi and Colombo, on its own terms, as indicated by a 22-minute radio intercept yesterday of a conversation between the group's leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran and area leader Pandyan, of Mannar.

The conversation, according to today's DAILY NEWS, which was monitored by IPKF stations in the Northern Province and police radio as far south as Samanthurai and Kalmunai, on Monday night, is being given serious attention by commanders of both armies. Official sources said the possibility of a last ditch suicidal campaign which dominated the conversation between Prabhakaran and Pandyan has been noted.

Prabhakaran: All we have done so far has produced zero results. If we fail to get to the negotiating table, we have to think of the programme we had during the Vadamarachchi campaign by the Sri Lanka Army. Every man must be instructed that he should kill at least 50 people before he goes down.

Pandyan: It won't be as easy as you think. The forces we are facing are too strong.

Prabhakaran: That is not for you to assess. Pass the orders on.

The conversation has been pinpointed by security forces to a spot in the jungles of Vushwamadu, between Kili-nochchi and Mullaitivu, where Prabhakaran is believed to be hiding, and which is the LTTE's hideout in Mannar. Officials said the voices had been identified as those of Prabhakaran and Pandyan.

Athulathmudali Addresses Party Meeting
BK070749 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0615 GMT 7 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 7 (LANKA PUWATH)—As a democratic party, the United National Party (UNP) cannot compromise with violence. It is wrong for any democratic organisation to support violence, said Sri Lankan National

Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali on Saturday [5 March]. He was addressing the meeting of the UNP's National Executive Committee at Siri Kotha in Sri Jayewardenepura.

According to today's DAILY NEWS, Mr Athulathmudali said he was happy to see members of the National Executive Committee raising criticisms which gave them hopes about the future of the party. He wished that this trend would prevail in the future. In the present situation it would always do well for them to face reality and respect the truth rather than tell lies to the people. Today it had become a habit to blame the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) for the certain incidents. Although they wished to hold the JVP responsible, they should not blame everything on the JVP. They should respect the truth.

For example, when there was a bomb blast at Maradana, many people came to him and wanted him to say that it was an act of the JVP. But it was only he who said it was the LTTE. He should tell the people the truth. It is only then that they will accept us and we need not fear anything, Mr Athulathmudali said.

The UNP as a democratic party was now facing a bitter struggle against the forces of violence. Some of the opposition parties only thought of political gains. It was wrong for any democratic organisation to support violence.

Mr Athulathmudali went on to refer to how the UNP acted while in the opposition and said that whatever the difficulties, the UNP had not resorted to violence. It had always acted in a democratic way to defeat the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) at the last general election. The UNP never took the attitude the SLFP was taking today. It did not seek power by falsehoods. It had a program of work for the people. What had the SLFP to offer the people? The SLFP was saying it would solve the problems of the people when it comes to power, but they did not disclose the solutions. It was similar to them promising to bring rice from the moon. The SLFP thought it could come to power by merely saying that this government had committed mistakes during the past 11 years. But the people were more intelligent and were aware of the UNP's record of work. No government had done as much as the present government. Even the opposition knew the work this government had done.

It was the duty of the membership to dedicate themselves to strengthening the party. In this moment of crisis it is essential that their dedication should be greater to arouse faith in the party and dispel unnecessary fears.

Mr Ranil Wickremasinghe, minister of education, said that most of the crimes being committed today were by the JVP. There had been attempts even since 1947 to destroy the UNP, but such attempts failed because the people were behind the party. The UNP could not say that their organisation was 100 percent perfect. Sometimes their members were silent when the opposition criticised them. They

should not be like that. They should reply to such criticism. This government had developed the country to a large extent during the past ten years. The members should make the people aware of this. A great service could be rendered through provincial councils.

Dr Nissanka Wijeratne, minister of justice, replying to a question raised earlier by Mr E.P. Paul Perera, MP for Kaduwela, said that parliament was supreme under the Constitution and exercised its judicial powers through the courts. Parliament always had the power even to scrap the present judicial structure and evolve a new system.

Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, UNP chairman, said several UNP members had been killed by subversives. Everyone feared death. It was a lie to say that one did not fear death. The UNP too could incite its members to retaliate, but it would not do that as it would only lead to bloodshed. The security of the country had been entrusted to the security forces. He stressed the need to revise the activities of some party branches at district and electoral level by giving them new leadership.

Acting Minister of Lands A.M.S. Addikari was among the speakers.

LANKA PUWATH Details 'Terrorist' Incidents
BK070954 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0851 GMT 7 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 Mar (LANKA PUWATH)—A member of the citizens committee at Kattankudi in eastern Sri Lanka's Batticaloa District was shot dead by unidentified gunmen last night, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. They gave the victim's name as Aliyar Lebbe Ahmad Lebbe.

The sources also said the Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] yesterday raided a terrorist hide-out at Unnich-chai in Batticaloa and apprehended eight hardcore LTTE terrorists. They said in the operation, the Indian troops seized 1 shotgun, 8 anti-tank shells, 2 mortars, and 2 bags of medicines.

In search operations conducted in Jaffna yesterday the IPKF recovered 1 self-loading rifle (SLR), 5 rounds of 7.62 ammunition and one hand grenade. One hardcore terrorist, Prem, surrendered to the IPKF at Manippai along with 1 hand grenade. At Chittupulam a person named Yogeswaran was shot dead by LTTE terrorists.

A Sri Lankan road clearing detachment was fired upon by terrorists near the Monkey Bridge, Trincomalee. The security forces returned fire causing the terrorists to withdraw towards Kanniyai. Reports from Mannar state that 11 persons belonging to PLOTE terrorist group surrendered to the Indian troops at Parayan Kulam, along with 5 AK-47 rifles, 1 hand grenade and 1 very high frequency (VHF) radio communications transmitter.